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THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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SIGNING FRENZY

MBA Sends Ten to the Collegiate Level

By Aaron Kaplan
Associate Editor

On February 5th, ten MBA seniors participated in an athletics signing day celebration and committed to play collegiate athletics. Between the ten athletes, four sports and eight different college athletic conferences were represented.

Eric Anderson, who captured the Division II-AA state cross country individual championship this past fall, has committed to run at Baylor University, a member of the Big 12, as part of their cross country and track programs. According to Coach Roderick Russ, "He's had as successful a running career as any MBA student ever." In cross country, Anderson is MBA's fourth ever individual state champion and has received all-state honors three times. On the track, Anderson has earned several region championships and state qualifications.

Samuel Bamigboye, a member of the Varsity Lacrosse team throughout high school, has committed to play at Johns Hopkins University (Big 10). He has earned All-American honors twice. In addition to complimenting Bamigboye's work ethic and ability, Coach John Harvey remarked that "You will not find a bigger smile on campus."

Tristan Chari, a catcher for the MBA baseball program, has committed to play at Vanderbilt University (SEC). He is ranked by Top Tenn Baseball as the 23rd best player in the state and has received two Underclass Honorable Mention awards from Perfect Game USA. Coach



TEN MONTGOMERY BELL SENIORS PREPARE TO PLAY AT THE COLLEGIATE LEVEL: *MBA's Signing Day a historic success*

Mike Anderson said that "Tristan will go down as one of the best catchers that has ever put on the Big Red uniform and has a chance to achieve that same accolade at Vanderbilt."

John Wheeler, despite a football concussion in 2012, has bounced back to become a valuable contributor for the Big Red baseball team as a junior and has committed to play at Sewanee (SAA). During the signing ceremony, Coach Anderson lauded "his versatility on the mound, in the field and at the plate."

Will Singer, a left-handed pitcher for the Big Red baseball team, has committed to play at Washington and Lee

University (ODAC). As a junior, Singer was second on the varsity squad in innings pitched, wins and strikeouts. Coach Anderson said, "Will can be counted on to handle anything presented to him inside the classroom or on the field with high character."

Grey Reames, a football and lacrosse standout for the Big Red, has committed to play football at Washington and Lee (ODAC). Reames played at the wide receiver, cornerback and kick returner positions. His wide receiver play earned him a spot on the Division II-AA all-region team. Reames was also nominated for the Admiral William P.

Lawrence Scholar-Athlete Award. Coach Marty Euverard described Reames as having "big-play ability" and being willing to do anything he is asked by his coaches.

Alex Bars, a lineman on both sides of the ball for the Big Red football team, has committed to play at the University of Notre Dame (Independent). In addition to being named to the Division II-AA All-Academic and All-Region teams, he earned the Lombardi Award (best lineman in the South), was a Tennessee Mr. Football Finalist, was a Gatorade Player of the Year finalist and was an Under Armour All-American. A

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with the
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Snack Bar now in Student Center

By Sam Weien
Associate Editor

MBA has officially announced that it is launching an on-campus café in order to provide students with more food opportunities throughout the day. The program has hit the ground running and is already having an impact on the MBA campus.

The idea came about from Mr. Gioia's travels, and according to the headmaster, "it developed over several years." While visiting other schools and colleges, Mr.

Gioia saw that students frequently relaxed at an on-campus snack and coffee shop. He saw that these types of stores brought students together as the food and drink was "both celebrated and appreciated."

Since February 3, the Sage Dining service has been selling food in the Dining Hall servery. From 8:00 until 10:10 in the morning and 2:30 until 4:00 in the afternoon every Monday through Friday, they provide food to hungry students. This situation serves as a trial version for the larger plan.

Beginning in the summer, MBA will renovate the central section of the Big Red Center where the painting of the Long Mountain observatory is. They will modify the room to fit a snack bar in the space.

>> **SNACK BAR, 3**

Change to come for AP Physics curriculum, fun new ways to torment MBA Juniors

Question:

A particle moves constantly in a circle centered at the origin with a period of 4.0 seconds. If its position at time $t = 0$ seconds is (2,0) meters, two possible equations describing the particle's x - and y -components are:

- a. $x = 2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} t\right)$ $y = 2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} t\right)$
- b. $x = 2 \cos\left(\frac{2}{\pi} t\right)$ $y = 2 \sin\left(\frac{2}{\pi} t\right)$
- c. $x = 2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} t\right)$ $y = 2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} t\right)$
- d. $x = 2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$ $y = 2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$
- e. $x = 2\pi \cos(2t)$ $y = 2\pi \sin(2t)$

HOW MUCH DO YOU REMEMBER FROM INTRO PHYSICAL SCIENCE: Answer and explanation available in Dr. Carro's classroom

By Rishi Mallipeddi
Staff Writer

Starting next year, MBA will have a new physics curriculum with new classes and the removal of AP Physics B.

The old AP Physics system consisted of AP Physics B and AP Physics C. Now, the AP Physics system has split AP Physics B into two new classes: AP Physics I and

AP Physics II, while MBA has also chosen to offer a new class, AP Physics I and II, as a singular class.

When asked about how MBA should incorporate the new College Board-approved AP Physics classes into its curriculum, Dr. Dickens said, "We as a department feel that we need to offer every AP that the College Board offers."

Originally, AP Physics B went over

topics such as Newtonian mechanics, fluid mechanics and thermal physics, electricity and magnetism, waves and optics, and atomic and nuclear physics. AP Physics I will count as the first semester of college algebra-based Physics. The course will include the topics of Newtonian mechanics, work, energy and power and will delve briefly into electric currents. AP Physics II, on the other hand, will count as the

second semester of college algebra-based Physics and will go over the topics of fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, optics and atomic and nuclear physics.

The AP Program replaced AP Physics B with AP Physics I and AP Physics II because the National Research Council decided that students should have a full experience of Newtonian mechanics and other topics not covered in AP Physics B. AP Physics I and II could count as college credit for a full year of algebra-based physics, but that depends on how individual students do on both the AP Physics I and AP Physics II AP exams.

In short, AP Physics B has been split into two courses: AP Physics I and AP Physics II, and MBA has changed Principles of Physics Honors into AP Physics I and AP Physics B into AP Physics I and II. The Physics II course alone has no current equivalent, as it will be geared towards seniors who took AP Physics I as juniors.

AP Physics C remains unchanged in all its world-renowned difficulty.

MBA EQUIPPED WITH GOOGLE GLASS, TECHNO RENAISSANCE CONTINUES

By Ben Barton
Features Editor

Since its inception about 15 years ago, Google's mission statement has been to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. In a famous interview, Eric Schmidt, Google's president, concluded that, after much study, it would take Google approximately 300 years to collect all the information in the world. Google has taken a colossal step towards its mission with the creation of Google Glass.

MBA has recently acquired two pairs of Google Glass. "We saw a great opportunity for students and teachers to experiment with this new technology," commented Elijah Reynolds, the master and keeper of these devices. "A few teachers have already used Glass to create content for their classes. We also want to use them for virtual campus tours and other marketing purposes." MBA applied for the devices through the Google Glass Explorer program and paid \$1,500 for each pair. The Glass(es?) will eventually be available for checkout, though no process has been decided upon at this

time. I was given the opportunity to try a pair out for the purpose of writing this article, and was extremely impressed.

The design and interface is fairly confusing at first and does absolutely take some getting used to. Google Glass has very few physical "buttons," Glass has an "on" button, and a button that takes a picture. In addition, the side of one of the temples of Glass doubles as a scroller, which one uses like a mouse pad, and a button where one taps to select. This device and voice recognition are the two main ways one navigates Glass. Glass comes with an ear bud extension and attachable Robocop-esq shades to cover one's eyes, if the user so chooses.

When I went to turn on glass, the word "GLASS" appeared in front of my right eye for approximately ten seconds. To activate the glasses, you say "Ok glass," and this brings you to Glass' main menu, which contains the following options: Google, take a picture, record a video, get directions, message, call, video call, listen and show compass. I went on to experiment with a couple of these features.

The google feature blew me



THE FUTURE HAS OFFICIALLY ARRIVED And Ensworth doesn't have it yet

away. Glass requests a question in its Google feature, so I simply asked, "Ok, Glass, what is Montgomery Bell Academy?" After a few seconds, my vision was inundated with a cover flow of pictures of MBA, information about MBA from various linked websites, and its location on a map. I then asked, "Ok, Glass, how do I make a sandwich?" I was presented a list to navigate of sandwich recipes and cookbooks, in addition to a few videos of, you guessed it, people making sandwiches. The voice recognition got every word.

The camera function was also fun to play around with. There are three ways to take a picture or video: say "Ok, Glass, take a picture," use the camera button, or my personal favorite, blink slowly, which also caused Glass to take a picture. Videos had the same interface. Through the message function, I could dictate messages to send to contacts. I could also get directions using Glass, which puts the user in what is practically a world turned into an interactive Google Maps.

However, Google Glass is not yet perfected. Operating system functions are difficult at times. Pictures and video may not be to the quality of higher end cell phones that users already use. In addition, the GPS navigation can be a little slow.

To counter these imperfections, though, Google Glass has the benefit of being a software-intensive device. Google took a page out of Apple's 2007 playbook by creating a device with few physical buttons, allowing them to have an enormous number of possibilities for expansion through upgrades (e.g., the iPhone). Google has already proved time and time again that it is one of the most innovative companies in the world, so I expect extremely impressive things to come for Google Glass. In conclusion, Google Glass has the potential to be a curious, multi-tasking student's best friend.



GOOGLE GLASS ARRIVES: One thing Geordi LaForge definitely saw coming

TURMOIL IN THE UKRAINE

POLITICAL PROTESTS REACH FRIGHTENING CALAMITY



PROTESTORS STAND OFF AGAINST RIOT POLICE IN VIOLENT CONFRONTATION: *Ukrainians rise up against political oppression*

Armand Jhala
Staff Writer

Since January 19th, riots have taken the Ukraine by storm. Centralized around the busy Hrushevskoho Street in Kiev, the riots have forced the Ukrainian government to unleash their riot police to pacify the coup d'état of the opposition group known as the Euromaidan.

The roots of the riots can be traced back to February of 2013, when President Viktor Yanukovich and the European Union entered negotiations to introduce a series of political and economic agreements. The European Union, however, issued a single caveat: if the Ukrainian government did not meet certain standards by November of 2013, the agreements would be nullified. Over the next few months, Yanukovich began his "cleanup project," even freeing prominent political rival Yuri Lutsenko from prison.

The trouble began in August of that year, when Russian strongman Vladimir Putin issued a statement that Russia would be lessening its economic presence in the Ukraine and tightening border security until Lutsenko scrapped his plans to sign the agreement with the European Union. Because Russia was such a critical economic presence in the Ukraine, the Kremlin feared that such a strong third-party influence, such as the European Union, would cause a deadly trade war. Holding off on all benefits, including a \$15 billion bailout, the Kremlin further threatened to make the sanctions permanent if Yanukovich signed the agreements in November. Afraid of economic shortfalls, Yanukovich

submitted to Russia's terms and halted plans for the meeting with the European Union on November 21, 2013.

Immediately after the talks were halted, the opposition party and its supporters gathered in Kiev and held a major public protest, the first of nine over the period from November to January. The protests culminated in the December 8th protest, the largest of the nine. Protestors gathered in Independence Square and toppled the central monument to Vladimir Lenin. Protests were held successively from December 8th to December 15th, with some devolving into brawls with pro-government protestors. The proverbial "final straw" was drawn on December 15th, when Stefan Füle stated that a power change would have to occur before an agreement could be reached.

The protests only continued, with each becoming more and more violent as police forces began to take a greater stand against the Euromaidan protestors. In an effort to quiet the protestors, Yanukovich and the Ukrainian Parliament passed the "Dictatorship Laws," a series of eleven laws restricting the public's freedom of speech and press, on January 16th.

The violence only escalated even further. From January 16th to January 19th, Euromaidan protestors were reported to have constructed barriers along the city to prevent military forces from intervening in the impending coup d'état.

The full-scale revolts then occurred on January 19th, when the Euromaidan, under the leadership of Batkivshchyna pro tempore party leaders Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Oleksandr Turchynov, declared its intention to create a new parliamentary government in the

Ukraine and to repeal the Dictatorship Laws. The riots occurred continually until January 28th with great portions of the city in flames.

The period between January 19th and January 28th resulted in a total of seven civilian deaths and many concessions from the Ukrainian government. The most critical concession was the resignation of Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who flew to Austria immediately after his resignation with "plans to stay there for a while." Yanukovich himself agreed to repeal nine of the eleven Dictatorship Laws, and also offered the Euromaidan a voice in committee that would help change the Ukrainian constitution. The Euromaidan has since agreed to halt riotous activities.

Although the Ukrainian government's concessions have briefly pacified the Euromaidan forces, there is no clear end date to the ongoing conflict. Although the opposition has agreed to stop attacking police forces, many are calling for the resignation of Viktor Yanukovich, calling him the "face of authoritarianism." The Euromaidan's highest demand, however, is the release of the Batkivshchyna party's leader, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Despite the clear demands, Yanukovich remains staunch in his views, stating, "We have fulfilled all the obligations which the authorities took on themselves." Yanukovich currently plans on continuing his presidency and has not considered releasing Tymoshenko. Until these demands are met, however, an end to the ongoing conflicts is not probable.

Student's receive snack bar, couldn't be happier >> SNACK BAR, 1

The café will sell a variety of products throughout the day. In the morning, it will sell a range of breakfast breads and pastries as well as coffee and smoothies. In the afternoon, the menu shifts to peanut butter and jelly sandwiches but will continue to include smoothies. Students can buy something to keep hunger at bay until lunch or have access to a filling pre-athletics snack.

Sage Dining Services will staff the store and provide one or two employees to prepare the food. The hours of operation, however, coincide with break, and more importantly, the legendary MBA cookie break. According to Mr. Gioia, the cookie break, new café and bake sales will all "learn to coexist at MBA." Further, snack choices "will expand, providing more options for everyone."

The implementation of this snack bar is also significant because it will lead to the gradual easing of food policy at MBA. Currently, food is technically allowed only in the new Dining Hall and outside of buildings. This policy will be changed with the new snack bar. Mr. Gioia says that now we must "embrace and celebrate food on campus." Just as water bottles have increasingly been populating campus over the past several years, the café may lead to the rise of smoothies and coffee on campus. However, it will be each individual teacher's policy to allow or prohibit food and drink in class.

The idea for the snack bar has received positive feedback so far. Senior Chris Mowery says that it is a "good idea," and as a student who "spent five dollars on cookies last week alone," he is "prepared to lose a lot of money." Coach Deutsch is "encouraged that the idea of an on-campus coffee and danish option came to fruition after being discussed for two years by interested comrades in algebra classes." Sophomore Owen Currey says that it's an "awesome idea" and that he'd "be down for some more food options." Junior Joseph Downey says he "would like to use it, but [he] will probably forget money so he will never have a chance."

The nutritional benefits of the food were a factor that was seriously considered. Some people have questioned giving students full access to pastries, smoothies and PB&J. But according to Mr. Gioia, MBA has been "very conscious" of this dilemma while planning. They have decided they need to "take risks" because they believe that the health benefits of the food outweigh the possible harm they could cause. Moreover, he thinks the food should not be healthy to the point where it is bland and says that the food must be "tasty enough that the boys like it."

After years of fourth period hunger pangs, MBA students finally have full access to snacks throughout most of the day. Whether it will bankrupt MBA students is yet to be seen, but its popularity is already soaring within the student body.

BRIDGEGATE

CHRIS CHRISTIE FINDS HIS TROUBLED WATERS

By Armand Jhala
Staff Writer

On September 9, 2013, confusion arose on the George Washington Bridge near Fort Lee, New Jersey when two of three driving lanes were closed randomly, creating a massive traffic jam.

Nobody knew that these closures would erupt into one of this year's biggest political scandals, rivaled only in hilarity and outrage by the reemergence of the Weiner misconduct story.

Reports claim that key aides of New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, including David Wildstein, Bill Baroni and Bridget Anne Kelly, intentionally s'hut down these lanes to jam traffic near the Fort Lee area. In the midst of these claims, Governor Christie has fired a large number of his staff, including these three aides.

New Jersey has endured its fair share of scandals with its governors. The previous governor, Jon Corzine, was criticized for essentially leaving his wife for his mistress during his first candidacy for governor of New Jersey and then paying her an enormous sum of money following the official break-up.

The city of Fort Lee became involved when its mayor, Mark Sokolich, refused to support Governor Christie in the 2013 gubernatorial election for the state of New Jersey. Rumors have circulated



CHRISTIE STRONGARMS FORT LEE: *Something to talk about in Jersey besides Bruce Springsteen and spray tanning*

that Christie's aides targeted Fort Lee in retaliation for the mayor's refusing to endorse Christie. These aides claim that the traffic closings were solely for a traffic study. Christie has agreed with the latter claim as he has openly wondered why a smaller city such as Fort Lee would get three traffic lanes.

About a month before the

incident, a series of e-mails, most of which were sent by Bridget Anne Kelly, Christie's deputy chief of staff, were sent to draw up a plan to close the lanes of the George Washington Bridge. David Wildstein officially ordered the bridge lane closings on September 9 without notifying the city of Fort Lee or police in the area.

As a result, traffic became heavily congested, school buses were delayed and one woman, who was suffering cardiac arrest, could not receive treatment from paramedics, who were stuck in the traffic. The woman died shortly after.

Perhaps strangest of all was the resulting cover-up of the lane closures. Numerous e-mails and documents have been uncovered implicating the aides in both the scandal and the ensuing cover-up. Since then, the US Attorney in New Jersey, the US Senate and even the FBI have opened probes into the matter.

Even worse for Governor Christie, the mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey, Dawn Zimmer, has claimed that Governor Christie's office, including his Lieutenant Governor, withheld funds for

Hurricane Sandy relief victims because of her refusal to support the Governor in his re-election campaign. Again, Governor Christie has denied all knowledge in this matter.

The political backlash against Christie has been severe. Numerous polls have seen his approval ratings plummet. Once considered a frontrunner for the Republican nomination for the 2016 presidential election, Christie has now seen his chances at this bid nosedive.

Christie's most fervent supporters praise his immediately taking the necessary actions to fire the offending members of his cabinet and for conveying his embarrassment over the scandal to the public, actions which some have viewed as taking responsibility for the matter.

Others do not give Christie this benefit of the doubt and claim that the Governor had knowledge of the true reasons behind the bridge closings even during the time period when the lanes were closed. Either way, Chris Christie is in danger of losing his political career—and presidential prospects—over this major



HILDAWG HAS HER SIGHTS ON 2016: *Christie's momentum falters*



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STATE OF THE UNION

The Bell Ringer weighs in

By Harrison Wheeler and Akeim George
Commie Liberals

Preparing for his 5th State of the Union address, President Obama knew that it was time for change. His public popularity was at an all-time low, and Washington DC was more split than ever. With this in mind, President Obama went back to the drawing board. On January 28th, the president took to the podium and delivered a significantly improved agenda.

Obama kicked things off by giving a quick recap of some of our nation's recent economic triumphs: we have the lowest unemployment rate in the past five years, our deficit has been cut in half, and, to the surprise of many, the United States has been declared the world's best place to invest.

The president proceeded to address one of 2013's most controversial topics, minimum wage. Under the current minimum wage, \$7.25 an hour, many people that work full-time still fall below the poverty line. President Obama stated that he plans to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10. Hopefully, such an increase would provide the funding necessary for millions of Americans to rise above the poverty line and pursue employment. Additionally, the president further addressed the issue by advocating equality for veterans and women in the workplace.

The President also mentioned that over 8 million jobs have been created in the past 5 years. In 2013, President Obama, like many high-ranking Democrats, pushed for the bolstering of unemployment insurance. In his SOTU address, the president argued that unemployment insurance helps people return to the workforce rather than push them in the opposite direction.

Throughout the address, Obama reinforced his intent to utilize his executive powers in 2014. Congress, currently at a standstill, has reached historic levels of unproductivity. Therefore, President Obama plans to take more initiative in regards to policy enforcement.

The president called for Democrats and Republicans to work together so that America won't be hindered



PRESIDENT OBAMA'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS RAISES QUESTIONS, OFFERS ANSWERS: *Americans still unsure about the Nation's future*

as it was in 2013 (i.e. the government shutdown that cost the US 24 billion dollars).

President Obama additionally stated that 2014 needs to be a year of action, a year in which America's promise of opportunity is revived. As a result, he stated the necessity of immigration policy reform.

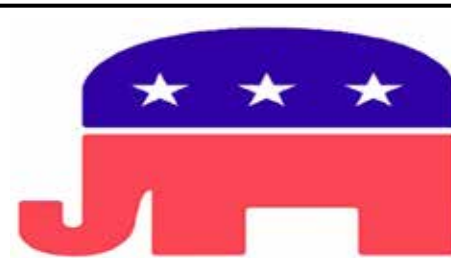
Breaking from his predominantly domestic agenda, Mr. Obama also addressed America's foreign policy and the need to break from a defensive mindset. He revealed that he plans to reduce deployment in Afghanistan, and that diplomatic talks with Iran are yielding promising results. When elaborating upon America's duty to "forge greater cooperation" throughout the world, President Obama mentioned increasing sub-Saharan Africa's access to electricity, *whipping tail* in the Sochi Olympics, and improving economic ties in South America and the Asian-Pacific.

Obama's focus on domestic reform shows a commitment to the restoration of America. He is under-

standably tired of the GOP's prevention of progress in economic equality, population stability, and international diplomacy. President Obama expressed a desire to work with the Republican party, despite the GOP's constant claim that the president is nothing short of tyrannical. But more importantly, in this year's SOTU address, President Obama displayed a commitment to aiding the majority of Americans, with or without bipartisan support.

It is worth noting that, at the conclusion of the address, President Obama recognized the First Lady's guest of honor, Cory Remsburg. Cory is an Army Ranger that was involved in a massive roadside bomb in Afghanistan. The GOP's chosen guests of honor were the stars of the reality TV show "*Duck Dynasty*," which highlights a Louisiana family's *duck-call business*.

2014 is an extremely important year for the people of the United States. As shown in his State of the Union Address, President Obama is ready to help our nation reach its full potential.



By Davis Lovvorn and Richard Thornton
Right Wing Nutjobs

President Obama's State of Union Address proved again that he is one of the most eloquent politicians in Washington today. He began with an optimistic view of the current state of affairs in America by celebrating entrepreneurs, teachers, autoworkers and farmers. He also asserted that the citizens make the State of the Union strong. Mr. Obama chose to inspire Americans by talking about consensus issues, such as the troops, unemployment, education and the greatness of America.

Democrats and Republicans both want these ideals for the United States, but they disagree on a plan of

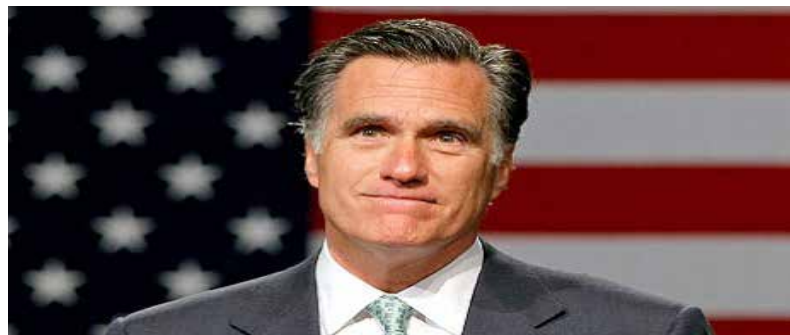
action to accomplish these goals. Mr. Obama wants to use the government to improve people's lives. He believes that government-controlled healthcare and economics will lead to prosperity for all Americans.

In the Republican rebuttal, Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers from Washington stated, "I came to Congress to help empower people, not politicians, and to grow the working middle class, not the government." Mrs. Rodgers and other Republicans believe that democracy works better when the citizens are more involved than the government. Mrs. Rodgers said that she "believes in a government that trusts people." The government always has good intentions, but often it complicates processes and makes the economy less efficient and more cumbersome. Both parties often cite

the American dream, but they disagree on methods to achieve equal opportunity.

Another portion of Mr. Obama's speech dealt with the Affordable Care Act. The President cited several statistics evincing the merits of this law, which includes that no American can be denied coverage because of a preexisting condition. Also, Mr. Obama smugly celebrated his so-called victory over the Republicans on this issue by saying, "Now, I don't expect to convince my Republican friends on the merits of this law. But I know that the American people aren't interested in refighting old battles." This conceited remark is inconsistent with the theme of unity the President sought later in his speech.

The President recognizes that unity is crucial to success individually and collectively in America, but his assault on the wealthy degrades unity. In a capitalistic society, there will always be wealthier people and poorer people, and an increase in the minimum wage will not change that. Instead of focusing on financial differences, Americans should work to fulfill their potential no matter where they start. As Mrs. Rodgers stated, the United States is "a nation defined by [its] potential." If all Americans work hard to reach their potential, or, as a certain football coach once implored, "guard their bean patch," the United States will be a more vibrant and prosperous country.



MISS US YET?: *Some Americans find themselves uttering coulda shoulda woulda's at their television screens*



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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the Bell Ringer office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to bellringer@montgomerybell.edu (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Tennessean/Gannett in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

The Impasse Between Living and Learning



McAllister: You take a big risk by encouraging them to be artists, John. When they realize they're not Rembrandts, Shakespeares or Mozarts, they'll hate you for it.

Keating: We're not talking artists, George, we're talking freethinkers.

McAllister: Freethinkers at seventeen?

Keating: Funny —I never pegged you as a cynic.

McAllister: Not a cynic, a realist. "Show me the heart unfettered by foolish dreams, and I'll show you a happy man."

Keating: "But only in their dreams can man be truly free. 'Twas always thus, and always thus will be."

McAllister: Tennyson?

Keating: No, Keating.

- from the film *Dead Poets Society*

What is education? The question can't be asked nearly enough. Can education be broken down, conceptualized into a spread of statistics? Can it be tested, uniformly and for all participants? Is it even necessary?

For many among our ranks, education is a chore. It feels like something being implemented against our will. At an early age, students are taught to equate academic success with a numerical or letter value. Knowledge is represented by a grade and can be boiled down into a GPA. Classes are prescribed, and it is our responsibility as students to accept their necessity in building some ideal that we can't truly grasp but that has already been defined for us. It can all seem horribly systematic.

Of course, this is only one way of looking at it. On the other hand, we're given the incredible benefit of years of educational foresight. Allowing young people to determine their own futures has the potential to lead to a generation of failed professional athletes, sports commentators, musicians, poets and entrepreneurs. These would be our little passions, the things we find ourselves doing inexplicably on Saturday afternoons when no one is watching. It seems terrible that these things are removed from the trudge of our day-to-day, supplanted by Latin conjugations, geometric theorems and anatomical diagrams of vascular plants. Where's the passion? The question we ask on errant Tuesday afternoons when staring numbly at whiteboards.

But how could we incorporate passion into our education? Where's the room? Colleges require a

certain course load, a certain breadth of achievement. A college preparatory school has an obligation to prepare its students for the best possible success. It's not the fault of the high schools that curriculum runs the risk of stifling embryonic passions. It does, however, reveal a painful truth.

The prize we are promised for working diligently along the narrows of the contemporary curriculum is that the struggle will be paid off when we find ourselves at the helm of our own intellectual journeys. The nagging fear, however, is that we will never shed this external idea of what it means to succeed. Will we continue to equate our self-worth with numerical achievement and fall in with predetermined and accepted routes to success? There is a great deal of fear facing the student. If I chase my passions, will I be successful? Will I be content? Is it better for me to stay within the conventional routes and not risk spiraling off into failure?

In truth, these questions cannot be answered easily and often bite at some of our fundamental struggles. Great, obscure ideas about the worth of happiness, self-actualization, and conventional success cannot be answered uniformly by any institution. Here's the point where the Editorial, having depicted the reality of the situation, must admit its own ignorance, and pose just one question:

Should we accept it?

Got an opinion? Let us know!

Do you like to write, take photos or work on graphic design?

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Contact: Wells Hamilton, Sam Weien, or Aaron Kaplan if you are interested



Juniors excited to take over campus, become especially thirsty

By Owen Powell
Staff Writer

After a #HypeForSwenson #HypeForRolf and #HypeForHazen-filled Winter Formal, we look back on the other highlights. **Curtis “she’s not my sister” Turner** went to Winter Formal with his sister. He ran around his after-party with his iconic fist pump and a “yup yup!” #HypeForTriplett happened. #HypeForLuster and his proudly showing off his Maurice Jones Drew Jersey at SCA Winter Formal. Pray for **Luster** for his recent illness.

Big Bad dropped 21 on Father Ryan’s face. **Jermaine Francis’** exchange student Jay informed me that he once had his pets stolen and eaten. R.I.P.. In other news, Project K has been the buzz lately. Prediction: Sausage Stromboli. Unfortunately, **Geoff Holland** and his girl are no longer talking. Fair game.

Well, it’s now pretty public regarding which teachers are retiring or pursuing other parts of their adult life. After the saddening news that the great Commander Carr would be retiring before having the opportunity to teach our senior AP Chemistry classes, **Anthony Swenson** shared these words: “Crap.” **Joseph “J-Swag” Downey** was like “woooahhhhttt?” With the esteemed Mr. Gaither and Dr. Gaffney leaving, **Michael Milam**, *in absentia* at the moment, is wondering whether or not Mondays will remain to be aphorism-filled. With the young and strung Professor Villemain departing to change the world, **Andrew Porter** is wondering who will tell him to “one two three budup!” during high jump



BLAKE SOLAREK WINS KEY VICTORY OVER LONGTIME RIVAL FROM BRIARCREST: *Still maintains perfect hair practice.*

The names of students who received exchange programs were released and it seems like most people are pleased. **Obi Trice** and **Barrick** (definitely not **Luke**) are going to be kicking it with Kiwis in New Zealand. On the other hand, **Akeim “The Dream” George** is going to be taking his talents to Singapore. **Harrison Lien** has nominated recent Aussie Exchange student **Hugo “Hu-blow” Umbers** as MVB. **Alexander “Don’t call me Alex!”** was not nominated for any awards.

Ian “Marino” Scholer and **Daynard** are still schemin’ 8th Period. **Big Wren McFadden** has been illustrating his artistic skills on my cast as of late. His sarcasm has reached new heights and some have even requested that he “calm down.” Fortunately for **Big Henry Rogers**, his gal pal has received some sort of education as of late. RRR. Classmates for 3 years and **Moxley** is still

asking **Trevor Patton** if he got hit with a board or something. smh.

Basketball is winning state, so show up and show out at the games. Hype For **Andreen**. “BEEF!” That is all. Chew Big Red gum, Man.



KANG HUH KNOWS HOW TO RELAX: *Putting around the yard*

Freshmen complete Ecce Romani II, now fluent in Latin

By Peter Taylor
Future Sophomore

Ah, winter. The season of indoor sports. The season of the snow and the cold. The season where young freshmen can be found crying over their first high school exam.

A notable exam generating numerous failures was Mr. Deutsch’s Honors Geometry exam, an exam which all except for **Micah “Curvekiller” White** found to be quite a challenge. *You pays your money and you takes your chances* (#regsmathforlife). Other commonly botched exams were the various Latin exams, which provided a fresh dish list of people who have never been, and never again will be, on the dreaded list.

As our freshmen recover from their good and not-so-good exam grades, we look forward with hopeful eyes to our new opportunities for academic success. **Tom “The Freshest of Men” Peters** is asking when in life he’s ever going to have to scan a poem. **JP Mappes** and **Brian “I passed Latin!” Thomas** enjoy aphorisms.

In mid-January, Wilson Immersion Grants were awarded to a great number of students who have proven to be some of MBA’s best and brightest. **Warner Lamar**’s only question is about the consequences of speaking Swahili while on Spanish Immersion. It’s not English!

At the same time, freshmen must now begin preparation for the annual speech competition. **Andrew “In it to win It” Kaplan** has already written and rewritten his speech a few dozen times.

On the side of student government, it’s time for our current officers to begin seeking re-election. Each student councilman has expressed his desire to continue his job, but the class officers are unsure. **Jake “Double Job” Evans** is doing a great job as both President and Vice President, while **Will Hoffman** has temporarily stepped down to “take care of some things.”

The freshman class also needs to figure out a way to make some money. Fast. So everyone buy those Lax pinnies!

As we look forward to the continuing tragedy that is Freshman year, remember, as **Turner “Tmankilla” Johnson** says, “Don’t cheat. Guys, just don’t do it.”

Sophomores wear camo, vanish from the radar

By Werner Bradshaw
Red Gatorade Enthusiast

The spring semester could be too much for the Class of 2016 to handle.

Phelps Gambill recently started driving his new car. When asked how he liked his new car, and all he said was, “It’s not a car, it’s a truck,” a phrase which has since become the slogan for a new movement in the sophomore class, led by all who drive their “well-deserved” \$30,000 trucks. Members of this movement refer to themselves as “lords of the lift kit.”

The movement does raise a few questions. First off, what is a lift kit? Why do you need one? How do we stop this lift madness? The world may never know.

Some controversy recently arose when a certain member of the Class of ‘16 claimed to be a member of the movement. **Jack King**, who supposedly drives a Jeep, is actually convinced that he drives a truck. “The lift on this thing is insane,” Jack said. “And there is mud all over the place. My tires are really huge, too.”

From this situation arose a new question: What are the qualifications for being a part of the movement? Some inside sources tell me that you must have a truck that you yourself did not purchase, fully-equipped with some sort of bar on the front and a nice coating of mud. Unfortunately, this means that anyone



HEY CONNER, WHAT’S UP?: *Conner Gray takes some time off from hiding from T-Cat to mug for the camera*

who at one point decides to get a car wash cannot take part in this historic movement. Tragic.

In other news, the basketball season is winding down, and sophomore ballers **Conner Gray**, **Parker Mimi Bryan**, **Jordan Wilson**, **Will Eskew** and others are ending the season on a strong note. Additionally, the wrestling team, led by sophomores **John Kelly**, **D’On Coofer**, and **Mark Floyd**, is currently finishing up its season as well.

As we look forward to spring, we can only hope that **Yavin Alwis** gives us the wisdom to survive and succeed, else we are doomed.



KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE: *Sophomores know how to look good.*



Yer a Wizard, Class of 2014



By Wells Hamilton

Minister of Magic/World's Worst Sorting Hat

-**Ravenclaw** values intelligence, creativity, learning and wit
 -**Slytherin** house values ambition, cunning, leadership and resourcefulness
 -**Gryffindor** values courage, bravery, nerve and chivalry
 -**Hufflepuff** values hard work, patience, justice and loyalty

Adam Biesman: Hufflepuff
Alex Bars: Hufflepuff
Andrew Dupuis: Hufflepuff
Armand Jhala: Gryffindor
Austin Dobbs: Ravenclaw
Bates O'Neal: Slytherin
Ben Shankle: Hufflepuff
Ben Yahnian: Gryffindor (Bonus points for being the Quidditch announcer)
Ben Chen: Ravenclaw
Blake Patton: Slytherin
Brad Bennett: Ravenclaw
Braden Welborn: Gryffindor (Order of the Phoenix)
Brandon Carpenter: Gryffindor
Bryson Jarrett: Ravenclaw
Cal Fisher: Gryffindor
Caleb Carpenter: Hufflepuff
Charlie Hawkins: Slytherin
Chase Duffey: Ravenclaw
Chase Matthews: Slytherin
Chippy Evans: Slytherin
Chris Burrus: Hufflepuff
Chris Mowery: Slytherin
Christian King: Slytherin

Clark Hooks: Hufflepuff (bonus points for Quidditch Seeker)
Clay Whitson: Slytherin
Coleman Kelly: Hufflepuff
Coleman Sorenson: Ravenclaw
DJ Clark: Gryffindor
Daryl Mott: Slytherin (bonus points for Gregory Goyle)
David Harrison: Gryffindor
David Spencer: Hufflepuff
Davis Lovvorn: Ravenclaw (bonus points for Quidditch Anouncer)
Denney Lackey: Slytherin
Drew Benson: Gryffindor
Duncan Smith: Gryffindor
Elliott Morrissey: Gryffindor
Eric Anderson: Ravenclaw
Ferris Bailey: Slytherin
Fred Harwell: Gryffindor (bonus points for being the Prisoner of Azkaban)
Gaines Garrett: Ravenclaw
Garrett Miler: Slytherin
Grahame Vines: Ravenclaw
Harrison Davies: Slytherin
Harrison Davis: Gryffindor
Henry Ingram: Slytherin
Houston Morris: Gryffindor (bonus points for Nevil Longbottom)
Jack Coyle: Ravenclaw
Jack Grant: Hufflepuff
Jack Thompson: Ravenclaw
Jay Robertson: Gryffindor
Joe Werthan: Gryffindor
John Gould: Slytherin
John Higham: Ravenclaw
John Wheeler: Gryffindor
Johnathan Barringer: Hufflepuff
John Yoder: Slytherin



TEN POINTS FOR GRYFFINDOR: The squad shows out for some community bonding, touch football.



Y'ALL JUST HATE IT CUZ YOU AIN'T IT: DJ Mott puts up a strong front while Blake Patton hangs out in the background.

Jonah Rappuhn: Gryffindor
Jordan Pugh: Ravenclaw
Josh Rotker: Hufflepuff
Kalyan Chadavalada: Gryffindor
Keith Gambill: Gryffindor (bonus points for Quidditch seeker, but not HP ☺)
Keon Cleary: Ravenclaw
Kipper Worthington: Gryffindor
Luke Cochran: Ravenclaw
Max Katsiff: Hufflepuff
Miles Curry: Ravenclaw (bonus points for Quidditch seeker)
Montgomery Turner: Gryffindor
Murphy Smiley: Slytherin
Nick Boney: Gryffindor
Nick Obremsky: Hufflepuff
Nick Trogdon: Hufflepuff
Nilay Patel: Gryffindor
Pat Sanders: Ravenclaw
Paul Garrard: Gryffindor
Rahul Ramana: Slytherin
Rem Houghton: Slytherin (bonus points for Quidditch seeker)
Ridley Wills: Gryffindor
Ross Blackwell: Ravenclaw
Russell Carpenter: Gryffindor
Ryan Carr: Gryffindor
Sam Gregory: Hufflepuff
Sam Harwell: Ravenclaw
Sam Hurd: Slytherin

Sam Papel: Hufflepuff
Sam Pinsly: Ravenclaw
Sam Smith: Slytherin
Sam Weien: Hufflepuff
Samuel Bamigboye: Slytherin
Steve Johnson: Ravenclaw (bonus points for opening Chamber of Secrets)
Stroud McMahan: Hufflepuff
Tarun Mallipeddi: Hufflepuff
Taylor Adams: Hufflepuff
Tejas Reddy: Gryffindor
Thomas Grey Reames: Gryffindor (bonus points for Ron Weasley)
Tony Drew: Slytherin
Travonte Easley: Gryffindor
Tristan Chari: Ravenclaw
Tucker Voges: Gryffindor
Tyler Forcum: Slytherin
Vinny Gaglione: Ravenclaw
Wells Hamilton: Slytherin
Wes Duke: Hufflepuff
Wesley Jenkins: Gryffindor
Will Glover: Hufflepuff
Will Singer: Ravenclaw
William Gray: Slytherin
William Holbrook: Ravenclaw
William Johnson: Slytherin (bonus points for Vincent Crabbe)
Wilson Hays: Slytherin
Wilson Vaughan: Gryffindor

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WHAT'S A BITCOIN?

MBA Student's Guide to Cryptocurrency

By Thomas Marosz
Staff Writer

In the current world economy, we have the Euro, the U.S. Dollar, the Yen, the Pound and the Franc. Now there's Bitcoin—a revolutionary currency unlike any other, the cornerstone of its philosophy being security, speed, reliability and ubiquity.

But what is Bitcoin really, and why would it be useful? Unlike conventional currencies, Bitcoin is peer-to-peer and completely digital, meaning that there is no central institution or government to regulate its value. And unlike most other payment options, Bitcoin eliminates any possibility for identity fraud; moreover, the lack of fees and third parties during online transactions allows for individuals and corporations alike using the currency to transfer Bitcoin quickly, efficiently and most of all, securely.

Looking more closely under the hood, Bitcoin's real asset in this regard is its use of cryptography—in particular, the utilization of NSA-designed hash functions (algorithms that map data of arbitrary length to data of a fixed length, also known as checksums) to prevent something known as the “double-spending” problem. If it weren't for Bitcoin's using this hash-based proof-of-work system, users would be able to reuse the same Bitcoin for multiple transactions, in effect creating an infinite amount of the currency. Bitcoin circumvents this issue by implementing digital signatures distributed among a peer-to-peer server to be checked in chronological order before finally being confirmed.

So how does one acquire new Bitcoins, apart from buying ones that already exist? Just imagine each Bitcoin

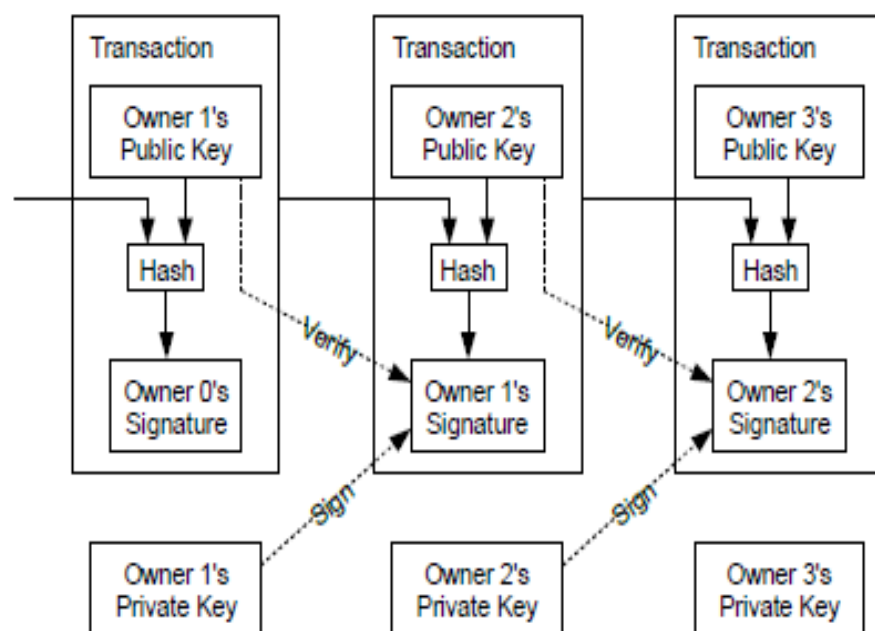


KIDS THESE DAY WITH THEIR DANGBLASTED INTERNET MONEYS: *Back in my day, you had to dig money out of the ground*

wallet as a separate node, and each Bitcoin as a block containing several proofs-of-work. Once enough proof-of-work is created to create a block, the block is added to a string of existing blocks, and its checksum is used to create the next block after being verified with all the blocks present in the string. This process is referred to by most as “mining.” In a figure confirmed by the calculations of Bitcoin's own founder, Satoshi Nakamoto, the probability that a hacker can inject a checksum to be verified against the checksums of all current blocks before an “honest” checksum can be appended to the current string decreases exponentially with time.

But Bitcoin's strength is also its shortcoming. Because of the way Bitcoin processes transactions, transfers of Bitcoin can be both instantaneous and lengthily-confirmed. Due to the possibility of a transaction being considered authentic and reversible during a grace period of around 10 minutes, the system has a greater probability of being cheated by one of the users. Yet with the use of more transaction confirmations, this probability diminishes exponentially.

In addition to these complications, the recent boom-bust



A NIFTY GUIDE TO HELP UNDERSTAND HOW BITCOINS ARE DISPERSED: *Don't get it? Neither do we!*

cycle of Bitcoin can be problematic for users trying to use Bitcoin in real-world transactions. The sharp increase in price has deterred users from actually using the currency and has instead formed an investment market where coins are hoarded rather than spent. Nevertheless, Bitcoin alternatives, including the popular Litecoin and Dogecoin (acclaimed

for funding the Jamaican bobsled team into the Winter Olympics) were created to allow users to jump onto the cryptocurrency bandwagon, with Bitcoin having skyrocketed to a staggering ~\$600 per Bitcoin. Bitcoin still remains in the avant-garde, its success silencing the echoes of four years of doubt and distrust in the seemingly imagined currency.

PRE-SPAWN FISHING: *How to lure the trickiest fish*

By Mark Floyd
Staff Writer

As the weather begins to improve and temperatures rise, pre-spawn fishing will begin. This can be one of the most exciting and successful fishing times of the year for anyone willing to endure the chilly morning temperatures.

Pre-spawn is the short time before fish spawn, when male and female fish begin to feed nonstop to store energy for their time on their beds during the spring spawn. When the water temperature creeps over about 50 degrees, crappies will likely begin to feed. Look for them around submerged structures between a few to about 10 feet of water depth. The best way to catch a pre-spawn crappie is undoubtedly the use of live minnows, but one of the best lures on the market is the Crappie

Magnet or Trout Magnet. This lure is incredibly effective at catching all freshwater fish from trout to bass, a lure that every fisherman should have in his tackle box.

Shortly after the crappies begin feeding, largemouth bass will begin their gorging on shad and any food source available. Early in the pre-spawn, plastic worms, jig-n-pigs and jerkbaits worked slowly near structure will provide great results. Lucky Craft makes some superb jerkbaits. While pricey, these baits are high quality and very effective. As the water heats up to over 55 or 60 degrees, the bass should begin to gorge on shad. This feeding period can provide some of the best fishing all year.

Bass will often hit just about any shad or minnow imitation they can get. Look for these bass feeding on schools of shad or minnows in coves or natural fish-holding bottom features

like drop-offs. Bandit crankbaits in blue/chrome have always been some of the best crankbaits for not only the pre-spawn but all times of the year. Spinnerbaits and umbrella rigs can also

be very effective during this time.

Late winter and early spring mark the beginning of the great fishing season, so get out and catch some fish!



MARK FLOYD'S GUIDE TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS: *Shoot fish if necessary*

MBA Student Artist Captures Essence of Baseball Legend

JACK COYLE REVEALS: A Picture of R.A. Dickey

By Harrison Wheeler
Staff Writer

MBA has it all: championship-winning athletes, world-class scholars and nationally-recognized artists. But when MBA accepted Jack Coyle, the school got all three.

Jack, currently a member of the senior class, was recently commissioned to create a painting commemorating MBA alum R.A. Dickey. Dickey, after graduating in '93, went on to play baseball at the University of Tennessee. In 1996, the baseball star took his talents to the Texas Rangers. In the following years, Dickey played for multiple teams before being traded to the Toronto Blue Jays in 2013.

Like Dickey, Coyle has been extremely successful in his areas of focus. Jack has received numerous Scholastic Art Awards and was given the opportunity to further his artistic skills last summer in Florence, Italy. Jack's contemporary style is unorthodox and full of emotion at once. Coyle's painting of Dickey, entitled "Major League Shattered," is no exception. The 60" by 40" oil painting is truly one-of-a-kind.

The piece, which highlights R.A.'s much-noted knuckleball, accurately represents Coyle's unique style. Starting with the left side of the canvas, Coyle paints Dickey in three different stances. In the first stance, Dickey, wearing a Texas Rangers hat, prepares to throw the ball. In the second pose, Coyle emphasizes Dickey's renowned knuckleball grip. Finally Dickey is shown releasing the ball while wearing a Toronto Blue Jays uniform.

With "Major League Shattered," Coyle is able to create an aesthetically pleasing work that both illustrates the various stages of Dickey's career and depicts R.A.'s famous knuckleball grip.

In January 2014, the painting



THE LAST GREAT KNUCKLEBALL PITCHER GETS IMMORTALIZED BY STUDENT OF HIS ALMA MATER: Jack Coyle's "Major League Shattered" shows Dickey's career in a follow through.

was presented to R.A. Dickey at an MBA Board of Trustees meeting. Jack took centerstage beside Mr. Gioia and Mr. Dickey as the piece was unveiled.

When asked about some of the challenges faced when creating the painting, Jack replied, "The biggest challenge I faced while working was coming up with a fully developed

depiction of R.A. that contained a summation of his career so far and a noticeable similarity to my previous work in concept and style."

With "Major League Shattered," Jack undoubtedly surpassed his goals. Coyle's painting will forever be a testament to the passion and skill that can be found in MBA's art department.

After asking Coyle about his plans for the future, the young artist replied, "My aspirations in art include getting a wholesome art education in college and becoming a full-time professional artist." If past success is any indication of the future, it is safe to say that we will be hearing about Jack's art for many years to come.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

INSIDE THE MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES

By Aaron Kaplan
Associate Editor

We live in football country. Everyone knows that. We live for the Friday night rivalries, the bowl games, and the Titans (well, maybe). Basketball has never really taken a stronghold on the local public's attention. Why is that?

Basketball is increasingly a game of finesse and glamour. Teams like the Miami Heat and the Los Angeles Clippers put on circus shows that draw the *oohs* and *aahs* from spectators. The advent of hand-checks and similarly restrictive fouls limit the physicality of the game. The South, a region that embodies a hard-working grind-it-out attitude, prefers the hard-hitting defenses of football to comparatively unentertaining jump-shots.

Will that culture ever change? How can basketball become appealing to people in the Southeastern United States?

Look no further than the NBA Memphis Grizzlies.

The Memphis Grizzlies are known for their "Grit n' Grind," as coined by guard Tony Allen. They fight through every game and play team basketball. It may not always be pretty, but they modestly put wins together without the flash and attention that larger market teams garner. As of the All-Star Break, they were playing stellar defense, allowing the 3rd fewest points per game by opponents (94.5). That is what makes this team so unique.

Their defensive toughness and drive to get the ball in the basket in any way possible should be valued by the same people who value the toughness of their football teams. After all, that is what defines the Grizzlies' relationship with the city of Memphis.

Watch a Grizzlies playoff game. Look around at the bright yellow rally towels that enliven the arena. One night they may read "All Heart," another "Believe Memphis" and another "Grit n' Grind." As Memphis, a struggling industrial city, has ground it out through recent tough times, so does its basketball team. The Grizzlies organization embodies the lifestyle and attitude of the people it represents.

That team-city relationship is



MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES HOST TRAINING CAMP EXHIBITION IN NASHVILLE: Guard Mike Conley (11) pulls up for a jumper during open practice at Ensworth High School.

what put the Memphis Grizzlies at the top of ESPN's rankings as the #1 franchise in American professional sports. Yes, that's above the Chicago Blackhawks, New England Patriots, Los Angeles Lakers and New York Yankees, just to name a few. The Grizzlies aren't a large market team, but they use their small market to their advantage.

The organization and its players are proud to represent Memphis and give back to the city that supports them. For example, you might see Zach Randolph and Tony Allen buying financially-struggling children gifts at Wal-Mart for Christmas. Grizzlies ticket prices are affordable and therefore draw in crowds from diverse communities in the area.

So why haven't we caught on? The Grizzlies are the only professional basketball team in our state. What's not to like about a team that gives its all night in and night out?

The Memphis Grizzlies hosted their training camp in Nashville this fall in an effort to grow their fanbase outside of Memphis. At the conclusion of this trip, they held a scrimmage/practice open to the public at Ensworth High School. I had the

opportunity to talk with some of the players and watch them play while they were in Music City.

When I asked Zach "Ze-Bo" Randolph about the evolution of a fanbase in the Southeast, he told me, "I think a fanbase down here, in this area, would be great – especially because it's not that far away and we need this area. We've got a lot of fans down here.... We appreciate the fans for supporting us down in this area and watching games. This is Tennessee. You know, I'm a Titans fan."

A breakout player this year for the Grizzlies, Mike Conley, told the media, "We're trying to expand our fanbase. We want to be the state's team. This is a team that not only represents Memphis, but Nashville, Knoxville - all across the state - and I think this helps do that."

After a fairly uneventful offseason during which the Grizzlies brought in Nick Calathes, Kosta Koufos, and Mike Miller (among others), Memphis got off to a slow start under new head coach David Joerger early on in the season, ending December with a 13-17 record and much to be desired. An injury to Marc Gasol set them back even further, but the recent return of Marc

Gasol has coincided with an elevation of play for the Grizzlies. This success has been in part due to the front office's sending Jerryd Bayless to Boston in return for Courtney Lee, who has been a great fit at the shooting guard position so far.

Entering February, the Grizzlies had a 25-20 record, having won twelve of fifteen games in January. Victories during this stretch came against strong teams such as the Thunder, Rockets, and Trailblazers. An injury to Mike Conley, who is averaging 18.0 points and 6.3 assists per game, at the end of January set the team back temporarily, but the Grizzlies are making a strong case for a playoff rebirth.

Zach Randolph, part of trade speculation at the beginning of the year, is having a great season, averaging 17.5 points and 10.4 rebounds per game. Other bright spots have come off the bench: Jon Leuer and former D-League standout James Johnson have shown great potential.

The Grizzlies are about as blue-collar a team as you will find in the NBA. They thrive in a small market and show their audience what basketball and humble perseverance is all about: team mentality and grit.



ONE-ON-ONE: Mike Conley (11) takes on fellow guard Jerryd Bayless (7). Bayless was traded this season to the Boston Celtics in exchange for guard Courtney Lee



BIG MAN BONANZA: Zach Randolph (50), a.k.a. "Ze-Bo," is guarded by fellow big man Ed Davis (32)

What's up in Sochi?

The Bell Ringer's take on Winter 2014



PUTIN DROPS THE BALL IN THE OPENING CEREMONIES: *Replaces Olympic hoop with astrick*

By Nolan Spear
Staff Torch Bearer

Well, Big Red, the time for the Winter Olympics has returned once again. It's hard to believe it has been four full years since the epic Vancouver competition of 2010, but now we turn our eyes to Sochi, home of this year's Olympic Games.

Over the past fortnight, the buzz over Sochi has increased significantly, though not really for the right reasons. It has been confirmed as the most expensive Winter Olympics in the competition's ninety-year history, but not all this funding seems to have gone in the right direction. Journalists from all over the world have offered large complaints over the quality of housing and living in the hotel system, with frequent pieces citing the "scene in Sochi" as one of poor water, unfinished hotels, and stray dogs roaming the streets. Along with the complaints over poor housing and sanitary conditions, the Games have also faced numerous terrorist threats from radical groups and complaints

over their environmental procedures. However, even with these problems lingering, it is impossible to ignore how truly special the Olympic Games are, and it's with this eye we turn to the competitions themselves, which surely will end up defining the games. First off, we look to the snow, specifically men's halfpipe and slopestyle. The notorious "Flying Tomato" Shaun White was scheduled to participate in both of these events, but he withdrew from his first-time slot in the slopestyle competition to focus on his best event. This created quite an Internet buzz, as White is regarded as the most dominant performer in all of snowboarding, and his presence would draw crowds anywhere. White cited the safety of the course as his main reason for withdrawal, but it has without a doubt cast an interesting shadow over the beginning snowboarding competitions. White was one of the favorites to win the gold, but after the competition, The Swiss Psalm played as the square flag was raised. Swiss native Iouri Podlaftchikov was victorious, and White failed to medal,

placing fourth. For the first time in the event's Olympic history the US failed to reach the podium, a severe disappointment for many. Expecting his boarding days to be over after 2014, White must ask himself if he will try to grab the gold one more time.

Now we turn to everyone's favorite Winter Olympic sport: hockey. We can only hope that year's medal rounds will come close to the hype of 2010, when the US and Canada faced off in an epic overtime duel that concluded in America taking a gut-wrenching loss. However, this year is our year, albeit with stiff competition. The US is set up well, with a strong front line manned by Captain Zach Parise, TJ Oshie, and the goal-machine Patrick Kane. At the defense, the US looks strong as well, with former Predator Ryan Suter, an alternate captain, manning the back line. In goal, the US decided to place their trust in 2012 Stanley Cup Champion Jonathan Quick, instead of the hero of the 2010 games, Ryan Miller.

With all of our talent however, the opposition is fierce. Canada poses a vicious front line of Sidney Crosby and Jonathan Toews, arguably two of the NHL's best players. However, Canada's weakness could lie in goal, as Roberto Luongo can be prone to weak spells. Even with Canada's overall strength, nothing stands in America's way more than the Swedes. Ranked #1 in the world by the IIHF, Sweden seemingly has no weaknesses. With stud defenseman Erik Karlsson manning the backline and the Sedin brothers at center, this squad has already demonstrated its prowess. In the opening round, the US cruised past Slovakia, winning 7-1, bolstering the hopes of puck-minded Americans for the

next test against our fierce rival, Russia. After an exciting three periods, the current Americans and the former Soviets were tied, 2-2. A shoot-out ensued, and all hope was placed in St. Louis Blues center T. J. Oshie. The US selected him six times for eight shots, and four goals later, the US was officially victorious. Oshie's popularity immediately soared: he was one of the top Google searches of the day, he gained 130,000 Twitter followers, and was nicknamed T.J. Sochi. The US then defeated the Slovenians 5-1, to advance to quarters.

The quarterfinal round has made international headlines because it embodies the chaos of the 2014 Olympics. The home nation Russia (and according to some, the favorite) was upset by neighbor and Cold War rival Finland in a game that shocked the world's largest nation. Canada was saved by Predators defenseman Shea Weber, who scored to push the Mountie Maples over lowly Estonia. The US proved themselves to be a contender after defeating the Czech Republic 5-2. In a rematch of 2010 finals, the greatest nation on Earth plays Canada for a chance at gold.

Historically, the United States has been a strong contender at the Winter Olympics, sometimes winning even when the medals aren't placed in our athletes' hands. Yet this year things are different. With Shaun White denying the US a half-pipe medal for the first time in the event's history, the US now has a hole they must wait four years to fill. But as all eyes turn to Sochi, The Bell Ringer has a feeling that Team USA will do what it does best: show up and show out.

SHERMAN'S VERDICT: Another NFL "Scandal" Resolved?

By Jack Thompson
Staff Writer

One of the latest viral pictures going around various social media websites compares Representative Michael Grimm from New York and Richard Sherman, cornerback for the Seattle Seahawks.

Grimm was caught on video telling a reporter that he would "throw [him] off this f***** balcony." Sherman, on the other hand, was taped saying that he's the "best corner in the game." The picture then asks, "Who's the thug?" It still seems as though a majority of public sentiment feels that Sherman is the so-called "thug."

The word "thug" has rarely been used more in the news than it was used in the Sherman post-game rant story. According to *Deadspin*, "thug" was used 625 times the day after the NFC Championship game.

What made the story all the more interesting was Sherman's reaction and response to the labeling. He noted in a press conference that he was called a thug "because it seems like it's the accepted way of calling somebody the N-word nowadays." Sherman commented that he knows real thugs, and he clearly separated himself from them.

This problem may stem from a

lack of understanding of the word "thug." If we're defining "thug" as a person who for a moment forgot to be humble right after making arguably the most important play in his entire NFL career, then we clearly have the wrong definition.

But the problem is more deeply rooted than simply mislabeling an action or person. This dissociation between those condemned as thugs by social media and the *actual* thugs to whom the accused point demonstrates the reemergence of racism in sports.

Just as Sherman noted, "thug" definitely has a racial predisposition attached to it. The media do not label the predominantly white (~93%) players of the NHL as "thugs" for fighting, or the largely white (62%) and Hispanic/Latino (27%) baseball players for brawling.

So, after he finished a suspenseful and decisive game in one of the most violent sports with a game-saving play, the world expects this same man, known to be outspoken, not to be emotional?

This race problem arises from our preconceived, stereotyped notions of what it means to be a "thug." We are so heavily influenced by television and media on a daily basis that we have lost touch with our realistic, humane side.

This news story and national



RICHARD SHERMAN POSES QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE: *Leads fan to question how good at living they actually are*

debate merely augmented the criticism that we as a society are so willing to pass judgment on someone just because of one moment in the harsh spotlight.

Few knew Richard Sherman's story. Coming straight out of Compton, CA, Sherman graduated high school with a 4.5 GPA, earned a 1200 on the SAT and graduated Stanford with a 3.9 GPA and communications degree. Compton, made famous in NWA's hit song, was and is known as a place rife with gang violence.

Even if Sherman hadn't gone to Stanford or lived in Compton, few people

can relate to an NFL All-Pro and a key member of the Legion of Boom, and even fewer can criticize him from a place of knowledge or similar experience.

Sherman carries a chip on his shoulder because so many people told him that he wouldn't make it, telling him he's just a "thug."

Perhaps the most thuggish act of all, however, is making assumptions about people's lives in which we have no part and of which we therefore have no understanding.

MBA Hockey Gears Up for Playoffs

By Anthony Swenson
Sports Editor

Big Red Hockey has surpassed all expectations this season. After winning the Henry Hine Cup in the 2012-2013 season, much was expected for this team despite losing valuable players in the Class of 2013. With the regular season over and the playoffs looming, the team hopes to defeat Brentwood and Ravenwood in the near future to capture the coveted Preds Cup.

With a record of 12-4-1, the team finished atop the Tier 2 division over rivals Independence and Franklin. The GNASH League in which MBA competes consists of three divisions: Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3. The teams are placed according to skill level in each of the three divisions with the better squads tending to be in Tier 1.

The Big Red in Tier 2 recently defeated two Tier 1 teams within the span of a week: Centennial and John Paul II.

Coming off these crucial victories, the team heads into the playoffs with confidence while playing the best hockey the team has played all year. Since teams from all three divisions compete for the Preds Cup, the Big Red may be playing up to their opponents, but the team has a very good

chance of defeating the Tier 1 schools.

The team's success has come from great senior leadership and excellent coaching. Seniors Jack Coyle, Chase Matthews, Ben Yahnian, Kip Worthington, Sam Pinsly, Nick Boney and Cal Fisher have led the team to its current position through their roles in the locker room and their performances on the ice. Coyle, second in the league in goals against average and save percentage, and Matthews, fourth in the league in points, were both invited to play in the All-Star Game.

Freshmen Jacob Kovick ('17) and Ellis Moore ('17) have also had very impressive seasons with twenty-three and eleven points, respectively. Only Matthews ('14) has more points than Kovick and Moore. Backup net-minder Noah Wamble ('17) has also played exceptionally in his six games with a goals-allowed average of only 2.01. With such great success in its freshmen, the future looks very bright for Big Red hockey.

Only one problem looms for the team: injuries. Assistant captain and defensive leader Stephen Ray ('15) will miss the remainder of the season with a broken arm. Nick Boney ('14) is questionable for return this season with a concussion, but Jack Malone ('16) who suffered a neck injury in



BEN YAHNIAN AND KIP WORTHINGTON GLIDE OVER THE ICE: Olympic run expected

mid-January, is back on the ice and ready for the playoffs. Despite these injuries, the squad has had a chance to use some of its star players from the JV team including Parker Logan ('15) and Jackson Garey ('15). Their improved skills and ability to compete at the Varsity level have shown the benefits of having a JV team.

With the playoffs starting and the confidence and morale of the team high, Big Red Hockey looks to close the season well and bring home the Preds Cup, their goal since day one.



CHASE MATTHEWS BRINGS STICK TO PUCK: Jack Coyle in the top left corner

Ten Signees, Four Sports, Eight Different Colleges, MBA's Signing Day

>> SIGNING DAY, I



TRISTAN CHARI AND JOHN WHEELER WAIT FOR SIGNING CEREMONY: Vanderbilt and Sewanee await them

two-time All-State selection and ranked by ESPN as the nation's 76th best player, Bars is recognized by Coach Euverard and the rest of the team for his humility and unassuming demeanor.

Travonte Easley, a dynamic linebacker and special teams player for the Big Red football program, has committed to Mercer (A-Sun). Easley's versatility and athleticism are demonstrated by his filling in at the running back position when the team was struggling with injuries. A first-team All-State and Division II-AA All-Region team selection, Easley served as a captain of the team during his senior season. According to Coach Euverard, Easley is a "quiet leader" who sets a great example for other players on a daily basis.

D.J. Mott, a two-way lineman for the football team, has committed to play at Harvard (Ivy League). He was a Division II-AA All-Region and first-team All-State selection and played in the Tennessee East-West All-Star Game. Coach Euverard praised "his toughness and willingness to line up and go against anyone in the state."

Jashon Robertson, a four-year starter and letterman for the football team, has committed to play at the University of Tennessee (SEC). He was named to the Division II-AA All-Region team, named the Division II-AA Defensive Player of the Year and a two-time All-State selection. Coach Euverard described Robertson, a two-way lineman and captain of the team, as "a coach on the field, especially in workouts and in practices."

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FRANKLIN BOWS OUT

Vanderbilt bids sorrowful farewell



YOU'RE HERE AND THEN YOU'RE GONE: *Franklin urges Vandy fans to be brave*

By Ethan Freije
Staff Writer

On January 11th, one week after leading the Commodores to a second straight bowl victory, former Vanderbilt football coach James Franklin agreed to a six-year deal to coach the Penn State Nittany Lions.

With his passionate coaching style and persistent recruiting techniques, James Franklin was able to completely resurrect a football program that had previously been the laughing stock of the Southeastern Conference. In the two years before Franklin came to Nashville, Vanderbilt had a combined record of 4-20 and had beaten only one SEC

team during that span. After only three years at Vanderbilt, Franklin brought the Commodores to three bowl appearances and to a combined record of 24-15.

During this past season, after spearheading a remarkable turnaround in his first two seasons as a head coach, Franklin began to receive coaching offers from a plethora of schools around the country. As the season wound down, it was becoming clear that the forty-two year-old coach had no intention of staying in Music City. Despite his constant proclamations of devotion to Vandy, Franklin supposedly had interviews lined up with NFL teams such as the Washington Redskins and was a finalist for the recently-available Texas Longhorns position, arguably the most coveted coaching job in college football.

Soon after both the Redskins and Texas hired their new coaches, Franklin decided to replace Bill O'Brien at Penn State. Though few saw Penn State as James Franklin's first choice of the college jobs, Franklin, who grew up in Pennsylvania, claimed that Penn State was his "dream job."

While many of the Commodore faithful are heartbroken by the betrayal of the beloved coach, the fans can find solace

in the fact that Franklin would only leave Nashville for a truly special job. No one should have expected a truly elite coach to remain at a school that struggles to fill a stadium holding a mere forty thousand seats. Instead, the coach chose a home where the atmosphere at the wrestling matches rivals that of the Vanderbilt football games.

Perhaps as devastating as the loss of Franklin was the historic wave of Vanderbilt high school commitments that immediately fled the scene. Less than a week after Vandy lost its coach, about a dozen recruits de-committed from the school, and only three players remained firm in their allegiance. Also, Franklin has been able to swipe six Vanderbilt players and take them up to Happy Valley to play for Penn State. Somewhat hypocritically, Franklin completes this heist after previously stating in 2012 that high school players who de-commit from a university are "not men of honor."

With a strong string of James Franklin's recruits becoming the core group of players on the Commodore squad, the next few years might not be terrible for Vanderbilt, but new coach Derek Mason has much work to do on the recruiting trail.

The Future of Vandy Football: Derek Mason

By Andrew Kaplan
Staff Writer

So the savior is gone. To many across the country, so is Vanderbilt football's competitive chance.

James Franklin appeared to be the sole reason for Vandy's unprecedented success and newfound competitiveness in the SEC. The turmoil of Franklin's awkward goodbye has, in many ways, crushed Vanderbilt fans' hopes.

The 2014 recruiting class was ripped apart when Franklin decided to convert many of the recruits with whom he had spent so long creating relationships into Nittany Lions. All hopes for a continued elevated rate of success were seemingly doomed.

Contrary to those unfamiliar with the Vanderbilt program's day-to-day operations, true Nashvillians understand that the new era without Franklin actually brings opportunity for further success. With a defensive-minded coach by the name of Derek Mason, the Commodores now have fresh potential.

Under the Franklin regime, the team was not going to get any better or achieve a greater record. A popular thought is that Franklin knew he had maxed out his success and realized he needed to move on before people saw that his achievements were limited.

Mason, coming from Stanford, which boasted a defense that coined the term "intellectual brutality," brings a new advantage to the program: experience



A LONG WAY FROM STANFORD: *Derek Mason has big plans for the Vanderbilt football program.*

and play-calling familiarity. While Franklin was a fantastic recruiter and great at making personal connections, his lack of experience with success at a big time program prior to the Vanderbilt job hindered his ability to create a game plan that would shut down any team in the country.

Derek Mason brings a resume of defensive prowess in the PAC-12 that is unmatched. His ability to design defensive schemes and make the right calls gives Vandy the opportunity to not only consistently win nine games, but compete for SEC championships. By moving to a more experienced coach and the supplementary coaching staff he has hired, the ceiling is being raised year after year.

Although this year's recruiting class is far from desirable, Mason has enough left from Franklin in freshmen recruits that one off year will not kill the program. Furthermore, Mason will be able to attract better recruits as he succeeds with next year's squad and competes with the best teams in the country.

Look for an improved Commodore team next year and beyond as Vandy has gained the talent it needs in a coaching staff that will take the program's abilities and potential to the next level: SEC championships. Franklin did a lot of talking for the mediocre success he was able to attain. Thanks to Derek Mason, UT will continue to gripe about Vandy's triumphs for years to come.



DEREK MASON ACCEPTS POSITION AS HEAD COACH: *Forced to enjoy Country Music*

THE TENNESSEE TITANS: *ENTRENCHED IN MEDIOCRITY*

By Eric Anderson
Staff Writer

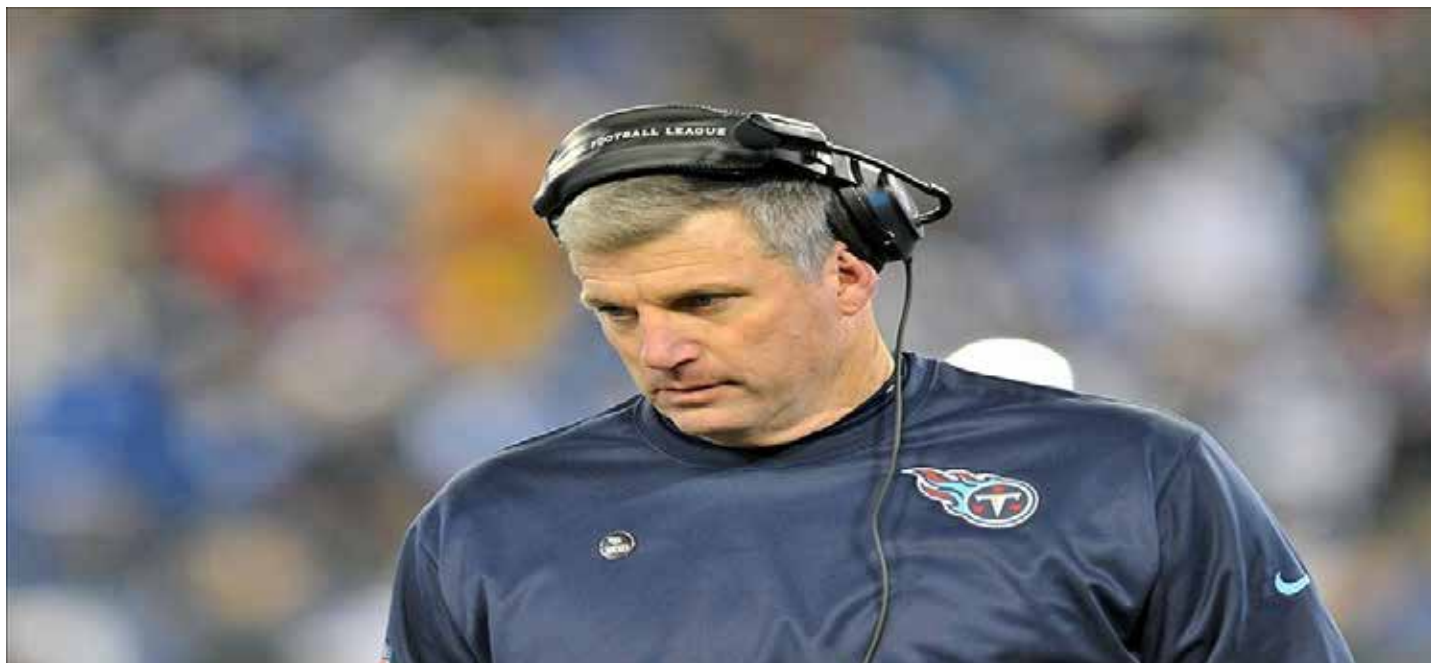
8-8. 6-10. 9-7. 6-10. 7-9. These are the records of the Tennessee Titans since they went 13-3 during the 2008-2009 season. Ever since the “Smash ‘n Dash” combination of LenDale White and Chris Johnson, the Titans have been nothing but mediocre. From the front office to the coaching staff to the players on the field, their effort and performance have been sub-par.

The worst part of the Titans is that they give false hope. In 2010, the Titans started the season 5-2, making fans believe they were heading back to the playoffs. Over the next nine games, they finished 1-8, including the disastrous game against the Texans in which Cortland Finnegan decided to get into a boxing match with Andre Johnson. And what about 2011? The quick 3-1 start to the season created a widespread opinion that Matt Hasselbeck could redeem the awful ending to the Vince Young era and lead the team to a playoff appearance. The Titans lost to the 0-13 Colts in Week 14 to ensure that there would be no postseason in Music City.

Most recently, the Titans started 3-1, including a dramatic win over the Chargers, leading fans to build up hope once again. They owned tie-breakers over several AFC opponents, making the Titans the likely option to slip into the playoffs at one of the wildcard spots. Of course, fans this time were just holding their breath to see when they would again fall short. That moment came when the 0-8 Jacksonville Jaguars came into Nashville and beat the Titans 29-27.

The lack of production from our hometown team has created the reputation that the Titans are stuck in a state of mediocrity.

The Titans offense has struggled to produce for the last decade. The last time Tennessee had an offense ranked in the top ten for yards in a season was in 2003 with Steve McNair leading the way. In fact, he is the last quarterback for the Titans to throw for more than 3,000 yards in a season. The Titans’ passing game



MIKE MUNCHAK FAILS TO RALLY THE SQUAD: *ESPN constantly littered with footage of better teams running through the Titans*

simply has not worked well since the 2005 season, ranking them in the bottom half of the league every year in yards thrown since the Steve McNair era.

The one positive side to the Titans offense has been the running game. LenDale White had several productive seasons, making the acquisition of Chris Johnson rather questionable in the 2008 Draft. Those doubts certainly went away after Johnson posted a 1,200 yard rushing season in his rookie year. Even after starting 0-6 in 2009, Chris Johnson managed to have one of the best rushing seasons in NFL history with 2,006 yards. During that season, he had three touchdowns that were beyond 85 yards and is the only player in history to accomplish such a feat. The games were exciting because fans were just waiting for him to break through the line for a long touchdown.

In the seasons after the 2,000 yard year, Chris Johnson has not been nearly as productive. Maybe he has lost some speed, and maybe his offensive line was better in his early years, but his lack of yards can be found in his effort. He has a tendency to take some plays off and does not really hit the hole that is open for him on occasion. The Titans may need to look for another option at the running

back position within the next few years.

The defense has been less than consistent in the past several seasons. The Titans haven’t had a defense in the top ten since the 2008 team, but they have had eleventh and twelfth place rankings in that span. They also have had defenses at the 26, 27 and 31 spots. The cornerbacks have played well, but the linebackers need some work. In this upcoming draft, many analysts suggest that the Titans should draft Anthony Barr out of UCLA to improve the dreadful linebackers from this season. In addition, the linebacker coach will be replaced after Mike Munchak’s coaching staff got the boot in early January.

Another issue with the Titans has been the leadership and chemistry of the team. Bud Adams made some rather controversial decisions as owner when he demanded that native Texan Vince Young be chosen in the 2006 Draft. He pushed his limits as owner by continuously wanting his Texas star to play when he simply was not the best quarterback on the team.

The draft picks for the Titans have been less-than-stellar in the past few years. Derrick Morgan suffered an unfortunate injury before he could even get the chance to take the field, but no excuses should be made for Kenny Britt. While he has put up impressive numbers in a handful of games, the wide receiver has been a complete headache for coaches with his on- and off-the-field issues. Perhaps better decisions will be made with Bud Adams’ son-in-law Tommie Smith taking over ownership duties. He has already taken care of Mike Munchak and has been involved with the hiring of Ken Whisenhunt earlier this year.

Mike Munchak had some success with the Titans, but he fell short in many categories. The Titans went 6-12 against divisional opponents, including losing to the worst team in the league in each of Munchak’s three years with the Titans. Two of those losses arguably prevented Tennessee from getting a playoff spot. On top of these statistics, Mike Munchak went 2-20 against teams with a winning record, and the Titans longest winning streak under Munchak was three games in the 2011 season.

There is hope for the Titans. The hiring of Ken Whisenhunt shows that the owner and general manager are addressing the shortcomings on the offensive side of the ball. The Chargers offense was ranked thirty-first in 2012, but with Whisenhunt as offensive coordinator in 2013, they were ranked fifth. Whisenhunt also knows how to deal with mediocre teams like the Titans. He took over the Arizona Cardinals in 2007 and led them to the Super Bowl the following year.

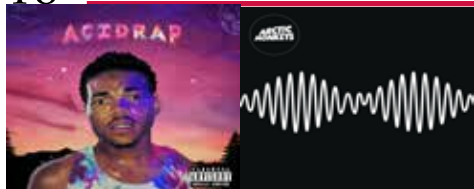
Let’s not forget about the NFL Draft. The Titans picked up Kendall Wright a couple of seasons ago, and he has so far been a necessary component to the offensive scheme. Chance Warmack started in every game of his rookie season and could turn out to be a long-lasting investment the Titans needed on the line. One draft pick that the Titans may have wasted was the one they used to get Jake Locker. He has suffered injuries in back-to-back seasons, leaving coaches and fans wondering whether his time in Tennessee is over. Even when he is healthy, many question his capabilities as a starting quarterback in the NFL.

With the Titans sitting at the eleventh spot in the April draft, the front office needs to consider Johnny Manziel if he is available. Yes, he has had issues off the field. Yes, he has a tendency to throw interceptions. But he is also electrifying. On 3rd and 8 against Alabama this year, he ran circles around the defense, breaking tackles and spinning away from defenders and somehow completed a prayer of a pass for a first down. We all saw the play against Duke when Johnny Football hurdled a defender, bounced off a lineman, and threw a pass over a linebacker for a touchdown. Bottom line is that he wins games, and his presence will give the fans something to cheer about.

With the addition of a new owner and a new coach, the Titans could be heading in the right direction. Mediocrity has been the name of the game for Tennessee, but every team seems to come out of a slump eventually. Several key changes in the front office, coaching staff and players will help the Titans break out of mediocrity.



SAD CHRIS JOHNSON IS SAD: *The fate of a great player now past his prime.*



By Nick Trogon
Staff Writer

10. Shpongles: *Museum of Consciousness*

I've written an entire page about how incredible Shpongles' latest foray into the world of man was, but thanks to our Entertainment Editor, I've been given yet another chance to promote the most eccentric musical project of the past decade. *Museum of Consciousness* is exactly as ethereal and exciting as the name suggests, opening up with a song literally titled "Brain in a Fishtank," a scientific track that melts away to reveal a tribal, extremely Sponglish track. Featuring my personal favorite "How the Jellyfish Jumped Up the Mountain," as well as "The Aquatic Garden of Extra-Celestial Delights," this album is so varied from his other works that listening to each song is truly like walking into different rooms of a dimly-lit yet brightly-colored museum. The Aquatic Garden is most likely named after the Bosch painting of a similar title, which I advise everyone to seek out; if Shpongles existed back in his time, Bosch would most certainly have been the album's cover artist.

9. CHVRCHES: *The Bones of What You Believe*

While I just recently discovered Chvrches, upon listening to their newest album I was instantly drawn to this band that sounded like a mix between M83 and Crystal Castles. Lead singer Lauren Mayberry's voice is like that of an electronic punk angel who decided wings weren't in anymore and opted for a spaceship and a synthesizer. The first track, "The Mother That We Share," opens with beautiful vocal splicing and then some elegant yet punching synthwork meshed together with Mayberry belting out the hook that gives the song its name. I'm a sucker for arpeggios, and "Science/Visions" brings that in fantastically, but not too heavily, a sometimes difficult balance to maintain. This track doesn't stay rhythmic and simple, as it advances into a much heavier sound later on, keeping with the fairly complex compositions of the tracks on this album. *The Bones of What You Believe* is a must listen for anyone who enjoys a good female singer with two great musicians behind her, weaving a tapestry of crystalized sound just begging for a Lindsey Stirling collab.

8. Toro Y Moi: *Anything In Return*

Toro Y Moi is a difficult artist to describe in and of himself, almost like a mix between Star Slinger and Tame Impala. Despite the difficulty to pin down exactly what kind of sounds he's pumping out, anyone can agree that whatever the classification, *Anything in Return* is a fantastically mellow and atmospheric, melancholic story that captures the interest of the listener with delicious synths and bass and a sturdy framework of drumlines. One of the more interesting songs, "So

Many Details," is an emotional track with a fantastic flute-like arpeg in the background and some crunchy bass that acts as a stage for the apparent breakup in the song. After this heavier yet delicious track, "Rose Quartz" keeps the momentum going with a multi-layered, partially-instrumental vibe. The album slows down a little with "Touch," which sounds like Toro tapping his keyboard in thought, and then picks back up with "High Living," a song that reminded me of "The Gaudy Side of Town" by Gayngs. Held together with a mellow yet firm beat, this is a must-listen album, as anyone who went to his show awhile back can attest to.

7. Bombino: *Nomad*

Bombino is a band that more than likely very few people have heard of, and despite its number 7 spot on this list, Bombino is a band that should be sought out at any festival or Spotify exploration session. While at Bonnaroo this past year, my friend and I wandered into a tent to pass the time between the shows we planned to see. The band at this tent was unknown to us, some random band called "Bombino." We took our spot on a fence towards the back and sat waiting for the show; soon a small Middle-Eastern man and his band, all wearing long velvet robes and white silk scarves, walked out onto the stage. After introducing himself softly, he started jamming with more emotion than any artist I've seen to this day. "Amidinine," the first song of the album, is one of the most earthy and driven songs I've ever heard, and probably the most recognizable song. Another great song is "Imuhar," which showcases both Moctar's incredible guitar playing as well as the drummer's ability to shake the stage. This is a definite listen for anyone who can appreciate what some have been calling the "Middle Eastern Hendrix."

6. The Strokes: *Comedown Machine*

The first time I ever heard the Strokes, and more specifically Julian Casablancas' voice, was "Reptilia" on Guitar Hero 3. As my music choices shifted and changed over the years, I never stopped listening to The Strokes. *Comedown Machine* is filled with unique songs such as "80's Comedown Machine," which starts out with a drum delay not unlike that of "Letter of Intent" by Ducktails, which may be the reason this song hooked me. Held together with an almost accordion-like background, Casablancas sings moodily over a solid and floaty track. Followed by other appetizing tracks such as "Slow Animals" and "Call It Fate Call It Karma," which sounds almost like a Moody Blues song intro, the album is a must listen for Strokes fans and general music listeners alike.

5. Chance the Rapper: *Acid Rap*

I've never been a huge fan of rap because of the same reused tropes and concepts used by every single rapper of the past years, with a few exceptions.

One of those exceptions is Chance the Rapper and specifically *Acid Rap*. "Good Ass Intro" sets off the album with a gospel choir announcing the return of Chance. "Acid Rain," "Favorite Song" and "Lost" are all mellow and smooth songs that set the stage for the rest of the album. While the production isn't as good as *Yeezus*, the other acclaimed rap album of the year, it has its own feel that's much different and slowed down. On the off chance that you haven't heard this album, you definitely need to seek it out.

4. STRFKR: *Miracle Mile*

STRFKR, while having an inappropriate name, is also one of the better bands to put out an album in 2013. "While I'm Alive," the first track on the album, sets the stage for a bouncy yet jam-full soundscape. Coming in sounding like Tame Impala moshed with Real Estate,

Wells Hamilton Best of the Year

1. *Trouble Will Find Me* - The National - A great album if you like someone saying subtly depressing things in a low voice. Honestly, I just like The National.
2. *NOT REFLEKTOR OR MODERN VAMPIRES FROM THE CITY* - I really just had to say that.
3. *The Weatherman* - Gregory Alan Isakov - Great lyrics, good times.
4. *Let's Be Still* - The Head and The Heart - Acoustic music that you can fall asleep to
5. *AM* - Arctic Monkeys - It's the same song over and over, but it's a good song.

"Beach Monster" and "Atlantis" are must-listen tracks. The album itself is so good that it's hard to know where to start, so I suggest shuffling the songs, closing your eyes, and letting the cosmic guitar chords resonate through you like Jesus playing a harp. Afterwards, definitely go check out their other album *Jupiter* as well as every other song they've ever made.

3. Ducktails: *The Flower Lane*

Not many people have heard of Ducktails, the solo project of the bassist from the slightly better known beach Lo-Fi band Real Estate; some say that Ducktails is better than Real Estate, while I'd say that it's difficult to compare their two completely different styles of music, almost like the left and right sides of a brain. While Real Estate definitely has the sand-and-surf feel of a California garage band, Ducktails feels much more like the kid across the street with an analog synthesizer and giant library of vocal samples. The title track embodies this feeling perfectly, with an atmospheric organ driving the track forward. "Letter of Intent," a crowd favorite, has one of the best female vocal samples I've ever heard in a song, and the delayed drums somehow patch the song together as if looking through the cracks to another dimension. This is definitely an album to check out if you're ever in the mood for some chillout music or just some good music in general.

THE BELL RINGER'S ENTERTAINMENT ALBUMS OF

2. Pretty Lights: *A Color Map of the Sun*

Ahh Pretty Lights, you've been the soundtrack to many a late night party, and *Color Map of the Sun* offers several tracks to add to that post-rave afterglow. The best track is "Yellow Bird," to which I gave no shortage of praise in my earlier review of the entire album. But while having several mellow tracks, Smith presents no shortage of powerful dance tracks sampled with his own music, something he has never done before. Much like another artist who will be mentioned quite soon, Smith wanted to sample his own acoustic work as well as that of other artists in a sound studio, rather than simply composing everything off of a computer using other artists' samples. "Color of My Soul" has one of the best intros to a Pretty Lights song to date, while "Press Pause" hangs around the pantheon of Pretty Lights vocal samples along with the likes of "Finally Moving" and "Out of

Time." While almost everyone has heard this album, I encourage you to go and listen to it again, if only to remember how incredible it is.

1. Daft Punk: *Random Access Memories*

2013 was a great year for music with the shining return of our favorite European robots Daft Punk to centerstage with an album that effectively resurrected 70's and 80's disco like your grandfather's open-collared shirt and bell bottoms at the family reunion. No other album this year can compete with the sheer ingenuity and skill that was put into the creation of this masterpiece. The album was created over thousands of hours of studio time, and the duo used only one custom-built analog synthesizer, a vocoder and, of course, a host of guests to help weave together the funkiest thing since Ben Shankle's pink corduroy pants. "Give Life Back To Music" did exactly what it said and mentally prepared me for the eargasm that would be the song directly following it, "The Game of Love," which substantially slowed down the groove to bring a much more emotional track that concluded the robot love saga initially spun for us in the song "Digital Love." With an interview from the creator of electronic dance music followed by "Instant Crush," featuring none other than Julian Casablancas, and then finally closing out with a literal musical interpretation of an alien abduction, this work could quite possibly be the best album of the decade.

MENT SECTION PRESENTS F THE YEAR

By Wesley Jenkins
Staff Writer

10. *AM* – Arctic Monkeys

As lead singer Alex Turner drags out the line “I want it all” on *AM*’s fifth track, you are simply left to wonder why this man doesn’t already have everything. The album starts off driving with radio hit “Do I Wanna Know” and rolls right into hard-hitting “R U Mine.” It’s as if the British alt-rock group is inviting you to bash them, criticize them, take them down a notch, but they will always stay right above it. Almost every song opens with upbeat rhythms and deep bass drum hits, only taking a break for “Mad Sounds” and “One for the Road.” Arctic Monkeys know they aren’t the commercial pop appeal in the music industry and are denied the fame they deserve, but they refuse to change by staying true to themselves with *AM*.

9. *Evil Friends* – Portugal. The Man

Over the last eight years or so, Portugal. The Man has steadily released album after album of music rising from a beloved cult act to an almost universally accepted indie cornerstone. Numerous festival appearances and the acclaim of 2011’s *In the Mountain in the Clouds* should have prepared us for *Evil Friends*, but that’s just unfair to the mastery of this album. “Purple Yellow Red and Blue” and “Modern Jesus” are instant classics guaranteed to get airplay for years to come, while “Atomic Man,” “Creep in a T-Shirt” and “Someday Believers” all feature the strong hooks, driving rhythm and in-and-out synths Portugal has become known for. And if you’ve ever seen a Taco Bell commercial, you know “Evil Friends.” Portugal has always been a strong band but this is easily their best yet.

8. *Wildewoman* – Lucius

When Brooklyn-based band Lucius released their debut album *Wildewoman* in 2013, there was no fanfare, hype or drooling critics. Rather, the debut went mostly unnoticed and a well-made, prodigious work of art slipped through the cracks. The album not only features bubbly, upbeat tracks like “Tempest” and “Turn it Around” backed by drum kicks, hand claps and strong guitars, but also has the traditional indie ballads such as “Go Home” and the eponymous track “Wildewoman.” This album doesn’t reinvent indie pop music, but as Jess Wolfe and Holly Laessig taunt in “Nothing Ordinary,” “new is in, out with all the old,” thus claiming the reins for the next generation of indie.

7. *Acid Rap* – Chance the Rapper

Kendrick Lamar. Chancelor Bennett. The former has an album robbed of Best Rap Album at the Grammys, performed with Imagine Dragons and is generally seen as the best lyricist and hype man in rap today; the latter released the best non-Kanye rap

album of the year. Either way you look at it, these two’s careers are following very similar paths, with Kendrick getting roughly a two year head-start. Everything from flow, voice inflection and backgrounds are eerily reminiscent of Kendrick’s *Good Kid, m.A.A.d City* but is by no means the same. Chance often uses jazzy backgrounds and his tracks are much more mellow than Kendrick’s, but the talent is there. “Pusha Man,” “Cocoa Butter Man” and “NaNa” all prove the newest style of brilliance coming out of Chicago’s South Side. And with his signature “na na na”’s throughout the mixtape, Chance has created a masterpiece.

6. *The Bones of What you Believe* – CHVRCHES

With a sound that can often be mistaken to be the next Calvin Harris dance sensation, CHVRCHES released their debut album this year into the already-overcrowded synthpop genre. Lead singer Lauren Mayberry’s voice often cuts just above the deeper electronic beat running throughout the album to create a new, crisper sound than most pop bands do. CHVRCHES never seems too kitschy or “sellout”; rather, tracks such as “The Mother We Share” and “Recover” seem to show the new direction of electronic pop with their strong hooks but honest lyrics. Or maybe it’s just Mayberry’s mesmerizing voice that brings this whole album together. Either way, the album deserves more than a few listens.

5. *When the Night* – St. Lucia

After the release of *When the Night*, South African St. Lucia went on tour to open for Two Door Cinema Club, even playing at Marathon Music Works in Nashville. That has no relevance except that two incredible indie pop performers shared the stage on the same night and put on one astounding concert. Anyway, Johannesburg-born Jean-Phillip Grobler created the band St. Lucia as a quasi-traditional indie/electronic pop band, and judging by this debut album, he nailed both marks. Like a more upbeat Washed Out, St. Lucia creates a chillwave album that can be mistaken for synthpop. From the steady driving beat of “All Eyes on You” to the more whimsical “Elevate,” St. Lucia truly captures the imagination with this album.

4. *Days are Gone* – HAIM

Haim’s three sisters never seem out of place or uncomfortable in their debut *Days Are Gone* and instead take control of each song in a uniquely indescribable way. Haim has all the trappings of an indie group but the sound of a major pop power. “The Wire” and “My Song 5” both feature the strong, hard-hitting choruses so prevalent in pop music today. However, “Go Slow” and “Falling” both show a raw emotional side decidedly lacking in modern pop but frequently found in indie groups. Haim has conquered both sides without alienating either and done all of it with a simmering suavity weaving its way

through each of their songs. Haim does not have to be told that *Days Are Gone* is good: they know it’s great and don’t care at all what you think.

3. *Trouble Will Find Me* – The National

The National has long been a well-established indie group that remains steadfast in its refusal to conform to its

“Kangaroo Court” to “Chartreuse” have an irresistible build and catchy hook that only complement the silky smoothness of Sebu Simonian and Ryan Merchant’s voices. Probably the biggest triumph of the album is “Farrah Fawcett Hair” with its list of things white people like and an Andre 3000 rap that once again proves why Benjamin Andre is simply the best. As they sing, this album is “good s***.”

Grahame Vines Best of the Year

1. *Random Access Memory* - Daft Punk - All I have to say about this album is that you simply can’t skip it.
2. *Melody’s Echo Chamber* - Melody’s Echo Chamber Plenty to show for the new direction of progressive psychedelic rock.
3. *MGMT* - MGMT There’s no ‘Kids’ on here, folks.
4. *Anything in Return* - Toro Y Moi. One of the grooviest group musicians that I have encountered. .
5. *The Bones of What You Believe* - CHVRCHES This band is going places
6. *The Flower Lane* - Ducktails Beach Rock sound with a modern twist.
7. *Reflektor* - Arcade Fire Not their best work, but it’s still Arcade Fire
8. *Carrier* - The Dodos One of the most relaxing soft rock albums of 2013
9. *Days are Gone* - Haim Blood is thicker than water.
10. *Acid Rap* - Chance the Rapper Jazz-eccentric rap that makes you feel alive.

genre’s popification. *Trouble Will Find Me* is the sixth album produced by the band and keeps with their mellow, small-band-set feel. Singer Matt Berniger’s deep, baritone voice croons across the 13-song album often above soulful pianos (“Pink Rabbits”) or slow-paced rhythm guitar (“Fireproof”). The album at times feels like one extended folksy ballad, but that in no way negates its mastery of the genre.

2. *In a Tidal Wave of Mystery* – Capital Cities

If the only song you have ever heard by Capital Cities is their hit “Safe and Sound,” then congratulations on being able to tune a radio and get your act together. Capital Cities absolutely killed their debut with *In a Tidal Wave of Mystery*, creating one of the best pop albums of the year even without “Safe and Sound.” Every song has the synths common to all pop music today, but what makes Capital Cities unique are Spencer Ludwig’s bluesy trumpets backing the songs. Every song from

1. *Yeezus* – Kanye West

First things first, *Yeezus* is a work of art — not a classical painting that everyone can appreciate like a Rembrandt, but rather something more modern and pop like a Warhol work. That is to say, this album is certainly not for everyone, but the genius behind it can be universally appreciated. While an egotistical, crass maniac, Kanye West created a ten-song album that has single-handedly forced everyone to rethink what rap can be. With deep, repetitive bass riffs and an inordinate amount of screaming, “On Sight” and “Black Skinhead” appeal by trying to make you hate them. Every single track is a reflection of the dark and twisted mind that is Kanye West. He is an artist who wants you to hate him and to criticize his work. Any man who can not only do a song with God but also leave Him as a feature has some serious stones, but somehow it works. Look past the ego, the screaming, the darkness and you find a tortured soul.



KANYE ACCEPTS HIS RANKING AS GREATEST OF ALL TIME: *Thank Kanye!*



GOING FOR GOLD

Will Glover Picks the Oscars



By Will Glover
Entertainment Editor

Best Picture: For those that view the Oscars as the romantic (if somewhat snobbish) glorification of the best in film, this year's diverse array of nominees was a much welcomed surprise, with blockbusters and indie darlings alike receiving nominations. An early predictor for this prestigious-golden-statue has always been the Producer's Guild Awards, which shocked critics and moviegoers by announcing an unheard-of tie between *Gravity* and *12 Years a Slave* as the best movie of the year. Both movies represent the often-discussed dichotomy of American film: the technical versus the emotional. *Gravity* is without question one of the finest technical achievements since Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and that was over forty years ago; *12 Years a Slave*, on the other hand, is the type of film Oscar voters usually go crazy for, as they often reward movies with a powerful message. My money's on *American Hustle*, which also received nominations in every acting category; it's an intoxicating joy-ride of 70's nostalgia that should remind us all why we love movies in the first place.

The Frontrunner(s): *Gravity* and *12 Years a Slave*
My Favorite to Win: *American Hustle*



MCCONAUGHEY ANSWERS FOR CHRISTIAN BALE'S *THE MACHINIST*: Serious acting requires serious emaciation

Best Director: The five nominated directors are all visionaries of their own respective genres, and their films this year show each of them in peak form. Martin Scorsese's *The Wolf of Wall Street* is as gutsy and potentially revolutionary as any film he's ever done. With *Nebraska*, Alexander Payne is today what Woody Allen was thirty years ago: the reigning master of dark, ironic comedies that are as dramatic as they are funny. Steve McQueen's *12 Years a Slave* shows unbelievable depths of horror in a challenging (if not completely accurate) depiction of slavery; and if his film wins Best Picture, he may walk away with Oscar gold. The frontrunner, however, is Alfonso Cuarón, who directs *Gravity* with such unabashed vision; and his movie exemplifies the truly limitless scope of cinema. David O. Russell directed my favorite film of the year, *American Hustle*, which is the third movie in what Russell has called his trilogy of emotionally driven films, the other two being *The Fighter* and *Silver Linings Playbook* (also my favorite film of 2012). Russell deserves to be at the top of any informed list of the most talented directors working today.

The Frontrunner: **Alfonso Cuarón**
My Favorite to Win: **David O. Russell**

Best Actor: 2013 was an unusually strong year for male performances, and each of the nominees equally deserves a win. Chiwetel Ejiofor was the this year's breakout star for his extraordinary turn as a free black man captured into slavery in *12 Year's a Slave*. Leonardo DiCaprio has been snubbed too many times; but this year, Oscar voters finally came to their senses and nominated the most talented actor of his generation for his audacious performance in *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Following the footsteps of Sandra Bullock, Matthew McConaughey has officially stepped down as King of Romantic Comedies (Sandra was Queen) to become one of the most interesting and ambitious actors of the past few years in what's been called his "McConnaissance." In *Dallas Buyers Club*, McConaughey plays a homophobic cowboy diagnosed with AIDS, giving the best performance of the year.

The Frontrunner and My Favorite to Win: **Matthew McConaughey**

Best Actress: More than any other category this year, the Best Actress race has one, undisputed frontrunner that is all but guaranteed a win: Cate Blanchett in Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine*. Her turn as a boozy, drug-induced whirlwind of a modern day Blanche DuBois is as nuanced and complex a performance as she's ever given; Blanchett is known for her transformative, chameleon-like performances, be it her Oscar-winning turn as Katherine Hepburn in Scorsese's *The Aviator* or her spectacular transformation into Bob Dylan (yes, you read that correctly) in *I'm Not There*. It's no wonder she's been called the Meryl

Streep of her generation.

The Frontrunner and My Favorite to Win: **Cate Blanchett**

Best Supporting Actor: Jared Leto has spent the last six years traveling the world with his band, Thirty Seconds to Mars, making his return to acting this year in *Dallas Buyers Club*. Leto is best known for his visceral portrayal of heroin addict Harry Goldfarb in *Requiem for a Dream*, a film that I regard as the most extraordinary cinematic achievement of the past decade and is easily in my top five of the greatest movies of all time, in part because of Leto's performance. In *DBC*, Leto plays Rayon, a transgender woman dying of AIDS that helps Mathew McConaughey's character run an international drug trade to smuggle in medicine that the US government refuses to approve (a true story). Leto has a knack for choosing roles that find humanity in the most unlikely of places, eviscerating any preconceived notions of what it means to be alive.

The Frontrunner and My Favorite to Win: **Jared Leto**

Best Supporting Actress: Behind Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress is the strongest acting category this year. Jennifer Lawrence is an actress completely at the center of moviegoing consciousness, and she proves yet again her comedic and dramatic talent in *American Hustle*. In *August: Osage*



County, Julia Roberts is as stripped and bare-boned as we've ever seen her, giving a fiercely wounded performance. Lupita Nyong'o gives one of the most impressive film debuts of recent memory, and her performance as a young, manipulated slave is deservedly getting lots of attention. Sally Hawkins in *Blue Jasmine* plays the repressed sister opposite Cate Blanchett's showier role; Hawkins gives a subtle, walking-on-a-tight-rope performance that is, in many ways, the riskiest performance in the film.

The Frontrunner: **Lupita Nyong'o**
My Favorite to Win: **Sally Hawkins**

Who will win Oscar gold? Watch the 86th Academy Awards, airing live Sunday March 2nd, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres.



SAD DICAPRIO IS SAD: Looks like it's going to be another one of those Oscar-less years for Leonardo



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ENDADA ON THE HORIZON: ARTISTS IN ANTICIPATION

By Steve Wood
Staff Writer

With MBA's Endada Music and Arts festival less than three months away, the Endada crew looks to build on the success of the past three festivals. In 2014, Endada will emphasize an even greater diversity and depth of art than in prior years. Bringing MBA students together with a variety of other high school and professional artists and musicians, Endada should, as in the last three years, be a resounding success.

The Endada committee will release a full music lineup at a later date, as the planning stage is not yet completed. However, a number of MBA students plan to perform. Students already confirmed include: Dead King Cotton (Harrison Davies, Kipper Worthington and Fred Harwell), Armonica (Brad Bennett, Keon Cleary, Chris Mowery, Caleb Carpenter, Meg Henderson and Anne Fiorvanti), Rivers Run (William Richardson and Henry Rogers), Si Deane and Henry Ingram, and Will Trotman. This list is by no means

final, and the Endada committee will release a full list in the future.

As in years past, Endada also plans to house a wide display of visual and theatrical arts this year. Returning student artists will include, among others, seniors Jack Coyle and German Martinez as well as Harpeth Hall student Sara Puryear. These student artists will accompany a number of other artists from the Nashville area. The Southern Word Poets will return this year, and Endada plans to display both student and professional improvisational acting.

Endada 2014 will also include a new emphasis on the culinary arts. MBA junior Harry Stewart plans to sell gourmet ice cream and desserts, and Mr. Paolicchi will have delicious homemade root beer. Additionally, Harry may lead a cooking demonstration or a TV-style "cook off."

Endada is scheduled for April 26, rain or shine, and promises to be a fun and exciting event once again!



DEAD KING COTTON BRINGS ANGRY TWANG: *This ain't your Pop Country*



RIVERS RUN HEATS THE STAGE WITH COOL MELODIES: *An act to watch for sure*

DID SOMEBODY SAY MUSIC FESTIVAL?: MBA's GUIDE 2014

By Wesley Jenkins
Staff Writer

Every year, without fail, I eagerly await the various festival lineup releases, pore over them and then annoyingly repeat to anyone who will listen about how stacked Coachella is or why the heck Tom Petty is headlining. I am a nuisance, and I have accepted that fact. For good or for bad, this year was no different, except for one small thing: I now have the power to tell the whole school my opinions in one, sweeping article.

So now, without further delay, the best, worst and weirdest things from the upcoming summer of music festivals.

First things first. Outkast is reuniting for the first time in nearly eight years at Coachella in April. Let that sink in for a second. Outkast, possibly the greatest rap group in history (sorry Run-DMC) is finally putting aside their differences and performing again. And not just once or twice, but 40 times! You don't even have to go to California to become a part of history; they are playing Counterpoint in Georgia and will most likely headline at Bonnaroo in June. For anyone uninitiated to the prodigious talent of Andre Benjamin and the artist known as Big Boi, this announcement is purely earth-shattering. These two single-handedly put Southern rap on the map, so a chance to see them at Counterpoint in their home state is not something to

pass up lightly. The one downside of the Outkast announcement is that there is almost no mystery surrounding the remaining festivals' headliners. But who really cares? Outkast is back!

In other rap news, Chance the Rapper might actually be playing every festival known to man. I wouldn't be surprised to see him at a Renaissance Fair. With each new lineup announcement, there is one name common to all. Not that anyone is really complaining. With *AcidRap* easily being one of the best rap albums of the year, Chancellor Bennett is on the rise, and what better way to make a name for yourself than performing in front of thousands of people over and over again. If he does play Bonnaroo as expected, he instantly becomes a can't-miss set.

In case you haven't seen enough of Pretty Lights, Bassnectar, or Moon Taxi (did you know they played at Harpeth Hall prom?), all three will likely be at Bonnaroo and have been confirmed at a number of other festivals. Pretty Lights is even headlining at Counterpoint, a mostly rap and EDM-centered festival, and Moon Taxi is featured. Go figure.

By far my favorite lineup released so far has to be the Hangout Music Fest in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Three days on the beach headlined by Outkast, The Black Keys, Jack Johnson and The Killers, but unfortunately right in the middle of exam week. Other acts



YOUNG, WILD, AND FREE 2014: *Just kidding, Manchester is only 45 minutes down the road.*

include Wiz Khalifa, Pretty Lights, Childish Gambino, Capital Cities, Portugal the Man, the 1975, Zedd, Modest Mouse, Chance the Rapper and Bastille.

Finally, the only news anyone at MBA really cares about: Bonnaroo rumors. There is a complete list of 180 acts rumored to be at the festival online, but I'll just hit the highlights. First of all, headliners are expected to be Outkast, Elton John, Prince and Foo Fighters. That may be the strangest but most majestic collection of artists atop one handbill. For someone immortal like Prince, it's quite a mystery as to why he has never performed at Bonnaroo. Also, with many sources pointing to Billy Joel being featured, the possibility of an Elton John/Billy Joel set

is all too real, and it is tantalizing. If it happens, that set might surpass Outkast for most anticipated of the festival just by its sheer audacity.

Young the Giant and Arctic Monkeys are both widely expected to make the trip to Manchester, as are Foster the People and Broken Bells. Other names being thrown out that seem improbable—but would be incredible—include Imagine Dragons, Lorde, Vampire Weekend, Kid Cudi and Frank Ocean.

As of right now, February 19 is the day we are all looking forward to, and early reports are promising. And any year Weird Al does not announce the lineup is guaranteed to be a good year. Happy waiting, and see y'all in Manchester.

SEVEN OF THE BEST: *TOP MOVIES OF 2013*

By Will Glover
Entertainment Editor

7. *Don Jon*

Child actor-turned-movie star Joseph Gordon-Levitt gives his terrifically charming directorial debut in *Don Jon*. The movie follows the everyday life of a twenty-something year-old named Jon (played by Levitt) whose main concerns are "my body, my pad, my ride, my family, my church, my boys, my girls, my porn." The style of the film is somewhat like a music video, with each scene playing out like a succession of quickly paced beats and rhythms. Levitt has said that his movie is about the different influences of media: Jon explains in an early voice-over that his affinity for porn lies in its transportive quality of getting lost and consumed by the figures on the screen in a way that he is unable to replicate in real life. His girlfriend, played with sizzling sexiness by Scarlett Johansson, is consumed by a different type of media, as all of her opinions on relationships and interactions between men and women come from cheesy movies with Hollywood endings. The movie is funny, thought-provoking, and one of the most original concepts for any film I've seen in years.

6. *12 Years a Slave*

12 Years a Slave is based on the 1853 memoir of the same name written by Solomon Northup, a free black man kidnapped from his home in 1841 who spent the next twelve years in slavery. Watching this movie, I had to constantly remind myself this actually happened. This isn't one of those movies where you can passively watch the torture, pain, humiliation and heartache and not feel it all happening before your eyes. Steve McQueen (not the late American movie star, but the British director) has, unbelievably, only directed two other feature films. The first was *Hunger*, one of the only movies to depict the 1981 Irish hunger strike (and I've heard is a great film), and his second was *Shame*, a scorchingly powerful depiction of a man's struggle with sex addiction. Critics of McQueen have said that he is a director consumed by the suffering of others who will only make movies about tortured souls; for some lucky, silly people that may be true. But for the rest of us that realize that life can often be difficult and at times unbearable, McQueen is a director who captures life in all of its unavoidable ugliness, revealing characters who are forced to come to terms with the inescapable reality of their lives. As Solomon Northup says after being enslaved, "Tell no one who I am and that's the way to survive? Well I don't want to survive...I want to live."

5. *Seduced and Abandoned*

When director James Toback was nineteen years old, he had an idea to take the largest dosage of LSD in recorded human history. As he explains, "nine hours into what was a spectacularly enjoyable,

transcendent, ecstatic experience, I snapped and went insane and I knew it right away. I said, 'Uh-oh.' And for the next eight days I was walking around with a loaded 22-milimeter pistol." This true-life experience, which Toback later adapted into his brilliant film, *Harvard Man*, only serves to magnify the notion that Toback does nothing without fearlessness, passion, spontaneity and more than a hint of craziness, all of which he brings to his masterpiece *Seduced and Abandoned*. This film follows Toback and actor Alec Baldwin as they walk around the Cannes Film Festival looking for financing for a film they want to make called *The Last Tango in Tahiti*. At the surface, this is a movie about the attempted making of a movie, but it's also a riveting exploration and diagnosis of the current financial and creative state of the film industry. It features interviews with actors, producers, studio executives, and more than a few legendary directors, including Martin Scorsese, Roman Polanski, Francis Ford Coppola and Bernardo Bertolucci. Several of these interviews reveal fascinating anecdotes from movie history, like Bertolucci speaking of his relationship with Marlon Brando after filming *The Last Tango in Paris*: "He didn't speak to me for five years. Maybe he felt betrayed by me because I stole from him so many sincere things — real things from him." Part documentary, part movie-making adventure, *Seduced and Abandoned* is unlike any film I've ever seen.

4. *The Wolf of Wall Street*

This year's most discussed film follows the extraordinarily deplorable true life story of Jordan Belfort, a New York stock broker involved in mass corruption and securities fraud during the 1990's. While the film has received sparing critical acclaim, there has been significant controversy over what has been perceived as a giddy glorification of sex, drugs and apparent lack of moral conscience. Many have claimed that this movie doesn't hold characters morally accountable; too many would rather have an ending where Jordan gets hit by a car or contracts a fatal disease or some other life-ruining scenario, so we can leave the theater feeling good about ourselves in the knowledge that good conquers all. But in truth, would this reflect any type of reality? While Oliver Stone's depiction of New York stockbrokers in *Wall Street* was essentially a dreamscape of the horrors of capitalism, *Wolf* instead goes for something quite different and far more interesting: it shows these people for who they truly are, minus the usual cliché of lessons learned. Many critics have recognized this point, but audience reaction has been less than enthusiastic, with too many focusing on the now-famous 569-uses of the f-word (more than any movie in history). But consider the initial reception to Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* or Hitchcock's *Vertigo*: both films were initially bashed and criticized for simplemindedness and lacking of complexity or depth, and while both movies were wildly misunderstood, they are now considered landmark



THE BEST OF THE BEST: Still trying to figure out why they can't put the actors' names over the character they play...

achievements, among the greatest of all time. These misreadings have occurred several TIMES throughout history, where the passage of time allows for reinterpretation, and, in the case of *The Shining* and *Vertigo*, allowed audiences to look past the once-shocking cinematic features. Only time will tell, but I suspect that *Wolf* will become one of those films. This is the sixth collaboration between star Leonardo DiCaprio and director Martin Scorsese; and to state the obvious (with all due respect to Mr. Spielberg), Scorsese is the prevailing master of modern day moviemaking—and at the height of his cinematic sweet spot.

3. *Fruitvale Station*

FS tells the unbelievable true story of twenty-two year-old Oscar Grant, who was fatally shot (some would say executed) by police in Oakland, CA on New Year's Day in 2009. The shooting occurred after a fight broke out at the Fruitvale Train Station; the event was captured by several cellphones and later watched by millions across the country. The movie follows the last day of Oscar's life, and the camera weaves around the characters with a quiet casualness that only makes the ending all the more devastating. In the lead role, Michael B. Jordan cements his position as one of the most talented and exciting young actors this year. There is no apparent "acting" going on, and like all great actors, Jordan has the uncanny ability to truly live his character's life on the screen. With powerful performances and masterful storytelling, this is a moving tribute to a man whose senseless death will make you curse and scream, leaving you reeling with an unapologetic punch-in-the-gut.

2. *Dallas Buyers Club*

DBC tells the true story of homophobic cowboy Ron Woodruff (Matthew McConaughey) who is diagnosed with AIDS and eventually starts the *Dallas Buyers Club*, which gives unapproved, life-saving medicine smuggled in from Mexico to other AIDS patients. McConaughey is an actor of endless fascination: he has a way of speaking,

twisting and flipping his words into mind-bending contortions; and he plays Woodruff with such ferocity and spirit in a role that he was born to play. Jared Leto costars as a transgender woman named Rayon, also diagnosed with AIDS, and Leto is utterly unrecognizable as a character who couldn't care less what the world thinks of her. Both actors underwent shocking weight-loss to play their dying characters, and that level of commitment has created an undeniable sense of importance in a film that is at once moving, challenging, and a shining example of how film can lift the willing viewer to a state of overwhelming ecstasy.

1. *American Hustle*

AH is based on the notorious ABSCAM operations in the 70's, which saw FBI agents use con artists to set up sting operations for catching corrupt politicians. It stars Christian Bale and Amy Adams as two partners-in-crime con artists who work with an FBI agent played by Bradley Cooper. The movie is intricately plotted, but its focus is not on the historical accuracy of the events, but on an often operatic sense of emotion. There's romance, thriller intrigue and enough charm to make this film the most fun you'll ever experience in a movie theater. Director David O. Russell's biggest appeal is his love of movie-magic, a quality that is sadly rare in this blockbuster age of special effects. His talent lies in the ability to realize the potential of a camera in a way that lifts his images to a state of unabashed splendor. I love a director that allows his audience to sit back and marvel, and O. Russell's expert style makes us feel that it simply couldn't have been done any other way. You'll likely read plenty of lists of the best films of the year, but what about the best movie experiences? I'm not sure they're one in the same; *Gravity* was a work of art and one of this year's best, but it wasn't the greatest of movie experiences. I'm talking about the feeling of being enthralled, the feeling that you are witnessing something that seems somehow vital to our collective existence, and I felt that here. The best movie of the year: *American Hustle*.

Local School Newspaper Rushes to Prepare Back Page

Journalistic Integrity Questioned

By *The Bell Ringer* Staff
People Who Think They're Funny

Here at *The Bell Ringer*, we actually absorb a ridiculous amount of stories per issue. We often have no way of determining whether or not these stories are even true. We have to rely on a crack team of fact-checkers to make sure that only the absolutely factual gets published. Some of the headlines we receive verge on the ridiculous. Sometimes, they're more believable than the truth. For this back page, we've assembled some of the best unused headlines from the year thus far for your enjoyment.

- Local student wins State Lottery, now able to afford two bagels from Big Red Snack Bar
- 17 new inductees of Cum Laude Society to be hazed in Freemason Hall
- Mr. Davidson discovers 15 new prime numbers, no longer forced to teach Algebra I
- Reports of robbery occurring before school in new dining hall; unknown assailants reportedly make away with 10 million dollars worth of school merchandise (three chicken biscuits, jungle juice)
- MBA 7th Grader realizes he loves Vanderbilt athletics, hates the liberal media
- Yearly My-Pickup-Is-Cooler-Than-Yours Mash to be held in MBA parking garage; sophomores excited
- MBA Senior decides *1984* his favorite Sparknotes
- Technology Department checks student search history; one killed, two injured
- Discipline Committee to vote on mass expulsion of Sophomore class; DJ Mott unavailable for comment
- Student of the Raffles School found hiding in Lowry Songwriting Room, states



MBA'S OWN FORT KNOX, RIGHT IN THE DINING HALL: *Burglars beware, the ghosts of Byrons past haunt these halls*

- "I knew no one would look in here"
- MBA Junior makes "Feeysics Mane" joke at assembly, awarded scholarship for creative ingenuity
- Harpeth Hall Class of 2014 excited to take "Service Trip" to Paris, France
- MBA Senior sets out to beat Appalachian Trail record after recent assembly; states "Enough is enough"
- Member of the Junior Class to move permanently into the Patrick Wilson Library; states "RQ said I could"
- Business Club implicated in insider trading scandal; Ben Barton seen fleeing aboard private yacht
- Bearded members of the Class of 2013 seen wandering around campus reminiscing about the "good ole' days"
- Student opens email from Mr. Norton, enlightened by prudent information
- Student uses phone to do school work, thankful for new green-zone policy
- Class Secretary to make important announcement at class meeting; students
- gripped in anticipation
- Students attempt to note historical trends, identify as "60's-style counterculture" 9 out of 10 times
- New dining hall too crowded; everyone still goes there
- MBA Junior asks College Confidential to chance him; eagerly awaits results
- Dining hall to begin using sauce on pizza next year; "Greatest innovation in culinary history" claim patrons
- MBA 8th grader to finish *Ecce Romani* I, adds Latin to languages spoken on Facebook
- MBA sophomore to obtain learner's permit; warns classmates to "clear the roads"
- Freshman watches *Miracle of Life* video, recognizes parents
- Student checks "progress" tab on MBA website, instead finds slow, painful regression
- Endada staff unable to convince Two Door Cinema Club to perform at festival,
- settles for What Up? English
- Student watches *Pulp Fiction*, states "I'm a huge Tarantino buff"
- Thom Yorke to sue MBA Jazz Band for defamation over recent "Paranoid Android" cover
- MBA 8th Grader fears President Obama will steal his cookie money, posts video on Facebook opposing fascism
- MBA Sophomore discovers unexpected foot injury, states "I guess the fitness test will have to go on without me"
- MBA Rowers to discuss opinions on rowing; classmates shocked by rare occurrence
- Rising Junior to join eight new clubs on campus, states "I just really love getting involved"
- Hundreds of students to willingly attend optional pep rally; school spirit at record highs
- Teacher makes comment about weather; student nods in agreement
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CUM LAUDE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS: *New World Order to expand control to Student Body in 2014*



AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF AN MBA SPORTING EVENT: *Trying to catch the Big Red Army slippin'*